FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

MAY—JUNE 1963

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9th YEAR OF PUBLICATION

Why is VAURIAT so important?

See GLOBAL ORTHOTENY

in this issue

The bi-monthly
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SPACE
Edited by
Waveney Girvan

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

INCORPORATING FLYING SAUCER NEWS

Vol. 9 No. 3 MAY-JUNE

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Flying Saucer Review

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Once in Cornwall

IN 1950, two Sunday newspapers published a series of articles on flying saucers and in this way the subject was brought into the minds and homes of millions of people in the British Isles. A third Sunday paper, no doubt feeling rather out of it, sent a reporter and a photographer to Wales. The former, standing on a hill-side, threw a dustbin lid into the air while the latter recorded its flight. The idea was, of course, to prove that all saucer photographs were fakes. What it really proved was that dustbin lids could be photographed in the air, a possibility which, we would have thought, needed no demonstration. In that part of the popular press which was hostile to flying saucers, this was the level of argument. The believer and the disbeliever seem doomed to go on talking about two different subjects: more often than not their lines never crossed, for the sceptic invariably refused to look at the evidence in its entirety. Alas, the dustbin lid type of argument, so prevalent in 1950, is still with us today.

On February 14, the London *Evening Standard,* in its mid-day edition, carried a leading article on the subject of flying saucers. Its conclusion was that UFOs were all a myth: "the more fantastic a myth becomes, the more authority denies it, so much the more attractive does it become to the growing body of its believers. And neither the Air Ministry nor Moscow will be able to destroy their dreams." The step by which the leader-writer came to his conclusion was not by invoking dustbin lids, it is true, but by quoting an unidentified incident in these vague terms: "In Cornwall, once, a pair of glowing spheres coursed across the clouds. They moved in unison, their distance never varying. Suddenly they vanished. Down to Earth, the lonely car which had been slowly climbing up a very steep hill reached the top—and the headlights roved the road ahead instead." The leader-writer went on to remark that no matter how many times hard fact pricks a flying saucer "there are people who just will not take no for an answer." But what are the hard facts? Certainly the instance quoted is not one of them. We have nothing on our files about this Cornish case. "Once" is too vague, surely, to be a hard fact. What was the name of the driver? The time, the date, the exact place are also missing. It can at least be said on behalf of the believers that when an incident is reported all these details are quoted. Why cannot the sceptics play the game according to the rules?

If hard facts are wanted about car headlights, we can quote the Ronald Wildman sighting near Luton, fully reported in our March-April, 1962, issue, where will be found the time, the date and

the place.* The Air Ministry's answer to an enquiry was that the sighting had *probably* been caused by the reflection of the car's headlights, but this was opinion only and was given before their representative had interviewed Mr. Wildman. Is this a hard fact? What was a hard fact was the interview that the witness had with the police, who were satisfied that he had certainly seen what he claimed to have seen, a solid, metallic object hovering over his car, stalling it and covering his windscreen with hoar frost when it abruptly ascended and brushed against the branches of a tree. If Mr. Wildman was telling the truth—and nobody so far has suggested that he wasn't—then whatever he saw was not car headlight reflections. We do not ask the leader-writer in the *Evening Standard* to accept that the object was a flying saucer. All we ask him to do is to play fair. It is open to him to doubt Mr. Wildman and others. It is not open to an intellectually honest man to distort the facts and to misquote the Air Ministry or to mislead the public by knocking down Aunt Sallies of his own erection. If this leading article had been about any other topic except that of flying saucers it would have aroused a storm of protest. We can only hope that this did happen and that is why another leading article on some other topic was substituted in the later editions.

We are inclined to agree with Aimé Michel when he writes in this issue that we should not waste our time in answering back but should concentrate on the facts of our latest discoveries. However, if our opponents will not respect the facts, how are we to wake them from their dream? To some extent we have to answer back, for this REVIEW must somehow break the barrier of disbelief if we are to progress and gather new facts. It is the refusal to consider the evidence which we and many others have collated that tends to stifle the very source of the information that we seek. If the moulders of public opinion are allowed to misrepresent our case (or even to remain in ignorance of it), then the further testimony we seek may be delayed and the cause of scientific enquiry frustrated. This is why we are sending a copy of this issue of the REVIEW to the editors of all the leading newspapers in the country. It is not that we ignore hard facts: nobody seeks them out more assiduously than we do. It is in the hope that those who are not yet convinced may relent sufficiently to glimpse our point of view that we address to them our concluding remarks.

On another page we print a letter from the distinguished French investigator, Aimé Michel. The letter is compact with sound reasoning based on hard facts. If these findings cannot be satisfactorily assailed, then here is evidence not only that flying saucers exist but that they represent intelligences' superior to our own, who are encircling the globe apparently on a survey but with a purpose that is at present unknown to us. We appeal to all of a scientific and enquiring frame of mind to study Aimé Michel's discovery. If his reasoning is acceptable we would plead for assistance in our search for the truth. If flaw be discovered, then we will open our columns to correction, but we do ask that our case should be treated with some respect. Our contributors are not the fools that the leader-writer in the *Evening Standard* seems to imagine. If Michel has, in fact, established his case, then misquoting the Air Ministry or throwing dustbin lids into the air will not for ever prevail against the truth. And it would not be the first time in history that a minority has been proved right or that a Government has been found guilty of telling a lie.

* For those who collect them, here are the hard facts: Witness: Ronald Wildman. Occupation: Vauxhall car delivery man. Address: 42, St. Margaret's Avenue, Luton, Beds. Date: February 9, 1962. Time: Approximately 3.30 a.m. Place: Near Ivinghoe, Buckinghamshire, England.

Sighting reports . . .

From England, France, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Hawaii

. . . in this issue

GLOBAL ORTHOTENY

Aimé Michel's latest discovery

Much controversy was inevitably aroused by the original discovery that UFOs, or some of them at least, have travelled across certain territories in straight lines. Researchers in many countries had reported the existence of these straight lines, a factor in the mystery that ruled out all the objections put forward by the sceptics. Aimé Michel, in the following letter addressed to the Editor of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, points out that his latest discovery puts paid to many of the criticisms levelled against his original theory. Orthoteny is now a research method and a fact. It can well lead to the predictability of sightings. As a fact it will have to be regarded sooner or later by those scientists who refuse to admit the existence of the flying saucers. The letter that follows must surely rank as one of the most important contributions to UFOlogy that this REVIEW has been privileged to publish.

TRANSLATION BY G.W. CREIGHTON

THE wave of discussion that has been aroused by your REVIEW through the circulation of my book in England has given me a high opinion of the culture and of the critical sense of your readers. Neither in France nor in the U.S.A. have readers' reactions reached this level of quality. Which proves, it would seem, that in England a wider and more enlightened public is interested in the problem of the UFOs, and I congratulate you on this account.

1. First, I must emphasise that my book was written five years ago. Since its appearance, numerous investigators, in France and in the U.S.A., have criticised, and perfected, and pruned this theory—a theory of which I was merely the initiator and which has since been improved upon considerably. I have been its initiator, but am no longer, by any means, the only investigator to work along the lines that I had indicated in my book. *Orthoteny is not my personal property.* Original work has been done in this field by Vallée and others in France, by Buelta in Spain, Olavo Fontes in Brazil, Cristian Vogt and his co-workers in the Argentine, by the Civilian Saucer Intelligence in New York, by Guy Quincy in Algeria, and by numerous other people. As is the normal rule in the sciences, each one of these investigators has his own ideas which are not necessarily shared by all the others. Those who find such a situation astonishing should remember that it is the same in all scientific studies. That is how all progress is made, by criticism, and by divergent ideas. Thanks to this work, the truth gradually emerges.

2. However, all the investigators who have studied the alignments based on actual observations, and not merely in a superficial and theoretical way, are now convinced that certain of these alignments truly do correspond to some intelligent orderly arrangement imposed from outside by directing intelligences. On this particular point there is no divergence of opinion among the people whom I have quoted above.

I said *certain* alignments. The first result obtained by the original investigator who went over my calculations again, Alexander Mebane, of Civilian Saucer Intelligence of New York, showed—at the end of the American edition of my book—that a considerable number of the straight lines that I had drawn could be explained by the simple laws of chance. Alex Mebane has done us a great service in pruning out the uncertain (or possibly uncertain) lines, and in bringing out more clearly the lines that are certainly *not* uncertain, that is to say those which are inexplicable. It is upon some of these that I have been concentrating my effort for the past five years. It would need a fresh book to set out the details of what I have learnt from this study. So I will mention only one of these lines, namely the Bayonne-Vichy alignment of September 24, 1954 (page 74 of my book).

3. This Bayonne-Vichy alignment had already caught the attention of Alex Mebane (pp.258-259). Using his own method of calculation, he had found a probability of 1/500,000 in the worst hypothesis, and of 1/40,000,000 in the best hypothesis (see note 5, p. 79 of my book—American edition).

Now, in my book that line had only six points. Then, in 1958, my friend and opponent François Jacques Bergier showed me a cutting from the newspaper *Le Parisien Libéré* relating a sighting made on that same September 24, a sighting which I had not quoted in my book (for I had not known of it). " Look," he said to me, " that makes yet one more 'Virgilian Saucer' for you, and your alignment becomes explainable by chance."

I was at first very much upset by this objection. The sighting had taken place in Portugal, in a little village in the Sierra de Gardunha Mts., near the Spanish-Portuguese frontier. Then the idea came to me to extend the Bayonne-Vichy alignment towards the south-west, beyond Bayonne, to see where it went. And so long as I live I shall never forget the amazement of Bergier (and my own) when we found that the line intersected the Sierra de Gardunha and that this Portuguese sighting, at a place some 600 kilometres from Bayonne, was itself also located precisely on the alignment worked out by me two years before. At once the probability that this extraordinary coincidence could be due to chance —in even the most unfavourable hypothesis— rested on odds of several tens of millions to one! This was the second occasion in my life when I have discovered the *exact* location of a sighting simply by extending a line. We shall see in a moment that we have, since, done even better.

4. At roughly the same time as this, one of my friends, a professional astronomer, made a remark one day that set me thinking. He said: " It is striking enough to find that these sightings that form alignments are all sightings that were made on one day. But might there not also perhaps be permanent alignments, along which the sightings would be repeated on different dates?"

I then recalled that in fact this same alignment of September 24, 1954, passed through Dôle, in the Jura region, where, on two different occasions on previous days, an object had indeed been seen. Searching further into the matter, I ascertained that this line had been " visited " a good dozen times in the course of the week before September 24 and of the week following that date. Applying my method of calculation to the whole of the period, that is to say counting all the observations, the probability that this line could be a freak of chance remained of the order of one to several millions. It was then indeed a permanent line.

On the line!

While all this was going on, during the night of October 24, two almost simultaneous sightings occurred in France, namely at Tulle and Brive. Once again, they were on the line! But this time it was three years later. Could that be a coincidence? In 1960 I wanted to clear the question up and I made a calculation of the planetary prolongation of this singular alignment. In this way I obtained on a map of the world a line which ran through Europe, the Soviet Union, China, Formosa, New Guinea, New Zealand, South America (from Valdivia in Chile to the Brazilian coast between São Luiz and Fortaleza), the Atlantic, Portugal, and Spain. And at the very first glance something struck me: there had been since 1954 five waves of sightings, namely one in Western Europe (the one covered in my book), one in the U.S.A. in 1957, one in a confined area of Brazil around Fortaleza, another in New Guinea in 1959 (Cruttwell Report), and, lastly, one in New Zealand in 1960 (see particularly the issues of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW for March-April, 1960, September-October, 1960, and also for January-February, 1961, page 30). Of these five waves, four were literally " spitted " along the Bayonne-Vichy line, so that this line, the exceptional role of which had come to light for the first time as a result of the European sightings only, now definitely seemed to play the main role in the extra-terrestrial activities going on over the surface of the entire earth.

The Great Waves

I reserved judgment, however, and awaited the course of events. The upshot of it was that, as we all know, a new wave occurred in the Argentine in 1962 and, once again—for the fifth time in eight years—along the Bayonne-Vichy Great Circle. Our friend Cristian Vogt, who was passing through Paris at the time when his C.O.D.O.V.N.I. organisation was observing this wave in his own country, saw our map showing this Great Circle, and he was immensely struck by it. For the first time, in the history of Ufology, the draft outline of an ordered system on a scale embracing the whole planet was emerging before our eyes. All of us here, it must be said, were deeply moved. Some UFOs were, of course, being observed throughout the world, and constantly. But the phenomenon of the great waves, a phenomenon so original, and so familiar now to investigators, seemed to obey some topographical arrangement embracing the whole planet. Of six waves observed in eight years, five were located on one same Great Circle. As regards the sixth, the American wave, how could one fail to note its coincidence with the launching of the first sputnik? And, besides, the American wave showed other points of difference from the classic waves, particularly, for example, the absence of the great cloud cigar.

5. At this point I ought to say something about the work of Jacques Vallée in connection with the generalisation of this Great Circle concept, and about the disturbing results at which he has arrived. He will, however, do this, and better than I can, when he judges it to be opportune. The work involves delicate research, comprising very complicated trigonometrical and statistical analyses, which may lead very far.

Code-name BAVIC

As for myself, I have confined myself—working with the help of another astronomer friend—to a fine analysis of this Bayonne-Vichy alignment, to which Vallée has given the code-name of BAVIC. Our idea (confirmed by what has happened since, as you will see) was that the detailed study of BAVIC over a carefully observed demarcated area (i.e. France) could give us a trail that would lead to further new discoveries. So we began by investigating the terrain, studying very closely the cases of landings reported along this line, which work has in fact permitted us to define with a very good degree of precision where exactly the line runs.

That was where we had got to in our investigations by August, 1962, when the most sensational French sighting of the year occurred.

On August 29, in the village of Vauriat, in the Département of Puy de Dôme, a number of people witnessed, at 1.45 p.m.—thus in broad daylight—a veritable ballet-dance by unknown craft, which lasted for several minutes. One of the eye-witnesses, himself an engineer and an experienced pilot and member of the Aéro-Club d'Auvergne, sent a first report about it to General Chassin, and then a second report to my astronomer friend. The craft, four in number, had been observed with perfect clarity, at little distance and low altitude. And I was immediately struck by the description of the "ballet," that is to say the complicated behaviour of the machines—it was exactly the same zigzag manœuvre that I had noted during the sightings of the 1954 wave (see my book, page 182, centre) as marking the change of direction at the intersection of two lines.

We had to do some research, therefore, to find out where the little village of Vauriat lay. The report said: "in the Puy de Dôme." My astronomer friend got the 1/200,000 map of Puy de Dôme (the Michelin map No. 73), which has a

"Sketch-map showing how we found the position of the place called Vauriat, a village too small to appear in the "Gazeteer of French Communes." The course of the BAVIC line (here shown rising from left to right) enabled us to find it instantly."

surface equal to about 15 times the size of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW. It had thousands of names on it, and after an hour's search the tiny village of Vauriat could still not be found. Then my friend had an idea. "BAVIC," he said to himself, "BAVIC runs through the Puy de Dôme. Then Vauriat ought to lie on BAVIC?"

So he took a ruler and traced out BAVIC on his map. Then he consulted the sighting report again. It said: "The sighting took place right beside the Vauriat station." So there was a railway line passing through that village. And my friend reasoned as follows: "If Vauriat is on BAVIC, all I need to do to find this village is to follow BAVIC across the surface of the map until the alignment intersects a railway line, and there I shall find Vauriat."

It was Vauriat!

So he put his finger on one end of BAVIC and followed this line, and came to a railway line. A few millimetres before the point of intersection, BAVIC cut right through the centre of a small village. My friend bent down and read its name: *it was Vauriat*! To within one millimetre, that is to say with an error, on the actual ground, of 200 metres (for a Great Circle which, let us not forget, runs right round the earth!), the line that I had discovered in 1957 had aided us to establish the locality of a sighting in 1962. Once again, the straight-line method gave us the rare and exciting emotion of having made a discovery. But this time the conclusion forced itself upon us that it was urgently necessary to organise a systematic watch throughout the regions traversed by BAVIC. And this is what we have been engaged in organising here in France since the autumn of 1962. It is too early yet to set out here the new facts to which this scent has already led us, for some of them are still incomprehensible. But from now onwards we shall have the certitude, as the French saying puts it, that we "have something to go on." The pilots of the UFOs can dominate us as much as they like with their technique, but from now on it is proven that there is something in their behaviour that can be studied by the methods of our human science.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasise two facts. The first is that Orthoteny, which was merely a theory, has now become at the same time both a research method and a fact. A fact, for it can no longer be doubted that the observation of our planet by the extra-terrestrials is organised, at least in part, on terrestrial Great Circles. And a method, for we are beginning to interpret the meaning of this organisation and to conceive the possibility of forecasting future

MAP 5 Sightings and Alignments, September 24, 25, 26

This map shows the Bayonne-Vichy line reproduced from the American edition (page 74) of Michel's "Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery," published in 1958.

sightings.

And, finally, the proof of movement lies in progress. It is not by answering the objections that we shall be able to advance Ufology. The best reply—the only one of any use—to the criticism that is inevitably engendered by any positive work, is to carry on straight ahead and to have constantly something new to show for it. That is what the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW is doing, and Coral Lorenzen in the U.S.A., and Major Petersen in Denmark, Olavo Fontes in Brazil, Cristian Vogt in the Argentine, Buelta and Ribera in Spain, as well as so many others whom you know. And this is what we are trying to do in France also. My personal policy, may I add in conclusion, has always been (and will continue to be) to allow the discussions to develop without intervening, and to write only when I have something new to suggest.

Postscript

I forgot to mention something, in my article, that is very important for your readers, namely that, among the permanent alignments that we have so far discovered, there is one that runs right across England fom one side to the other. This is the line shown in May 14 on page 181 of my book *Flying Saucers And The Straight-Line Mystery.*

This line, which ends at Southend so far as England is concerned, has been the constant

scene of phenomena taking place repeatedly on the Continent since 1954. For example, there have again been some very fine sightings on this line in Italy last autumn (Lake Garda sightings).

So, although I have no particular knowledge about England (for which country I have only the documentation published by the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW), I should be very surprised if there have not been numerous sightings along the line linking Southend with, approximately, Barra Sound (in the southern part of the Hebrides). The type of sightings to be expected on this line are the following:

(1) Sightings of several objects at once.

(2) Sightings of objects stopping and carrying out the zigzag manœuvres.

(3) Landings in the vicinity of the line (let us say within a zone of 20 kilometres on each side).

Editor's Note. The importance of the discovery of the existence of global orthoteny cannot be over-stated. Michel has demonstrated that the great circles prove the visitations to have plan and purpose behind them.

Even believers in flying saucers are inclined, perhaps over-inclined, to meet the sceptics half-way and to concede that quite a high proportion of sightings can be attributed to misinterpretations and hoaxes, but such a statement is, as far as we can tell, based upon no solid evidence. As a corollary, global orthoteny would seem to prove that most of the witnesses, who cannot have been aware that they were living on a great circle line, are truthful. Had the misinterpreters and hoaxers represented a significant percentage of the total, the incidence of virgilian sightings would have been high enough to invalidate the discovery. All that is now left for the sceptic to maintain is that fools and knaves live along orthotenic lines that happen to encircle the globe.

Flying Saucers are in the news again!

AFTER some years of silence, the flying saucers are back in the news and on the air. As a result many people who previously scoffed are now prepared to listen to the evidence that has accumulated. Others who lost interest because they imagined that what is not reported in the Press cannot exist are returning to the fold. Please help us to persuade both these types of person to become subscribers. A subscription form is printed below:—

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Politicians and the UFO

By DESMOND LESLIE

AFTER reading the article "Censors at Work" in the March-April issue of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, describing how young Alex Birch fared at the Air Ministry, I feel the time has come to reveal how heads of that Department felt as long ago as 1954. I have not published the following letter and facts earlier out of deference to our previous Air Minister, Lord Ward (then the Hon. George Ward), as I felt it might embarrass him professionally. However, now that he has been honourably elevated to the House of Lords and has withdrawn from the political rat race, I am sure that these revelations will do him no harm at all, and may do the UFO situation some good.

When I first met George Ward he was then Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Air; shortly afterwards he became Secretary of State for Air, and it would have been a breach of confidence to publish his letter. I lent him *Flying Saucers Have Landed* to read, and he wrote me the following letter which I could have used as splendid "copy" had I so desired. The letter is headed:

OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY
UNDER-SECRETARY FOR STATE
AIR MINISTRY,
WHITEHALL, S.W.1

[It is hand written, and he has humorously crossed out "STATE" and written "SPACE."]

The letter reads:

January 18, 1954

Dear Saucerer Royal,

Thank you so much for sending me your book and for the charming inscription. I was delighted to have it. I read every word during the weekend. It is even more fascinating than I expected.

I can well understand why you got so absorbed in the subject. My head has been full of thoughts about it for two days. But I was lost in admiration at the immense amount of research you had done and the extraordinary interesting way you unfolded the case completely fairly and without overstatement; so that the reader has the feeling that he is being invited to decide for himself rather than being talked into something which he cannot be expected to understand. And he never for a moment feels that he is having his leg pulled. I really do congratulate you most warmly on the book and I am most grateful for the tremendous enjoyment I got out of reading it.

Thank you, too, for your letter which I've just got. Let's meet again as soon as possible. There is a mass of things I want to ask you and I should love to see Adamski's papers. My only hope this week is Thursday evening. Shall I come and have a drink with you there—or come to me if you like? If you are busy that evening we can arrange it for next week. Why don't you telephone me here on Wednesday morning any time that suits you?

I spent the morning with old Handley Page at his works. I couldn't escape from the horrible thought that all our efforts to fly higher and faster and further are simply brute force. God, I wish we knew how to build a vimana! Let's damn well find out.

My best regards to your wife

Yours, George Ward

This, I would again remind you, was January, 1954. The subject was still very *outré* and generally suspect.

On July 13, 1954, I received a charming letter from Earl Alexander of Tunis, then our Defence Minister:

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
STOREY'S GATE.
S.W.1.

Dear Desmond,

Many thanks for your book on the problem of Flying Saucers, I am sorry I have not had a minute to thank you before but I have had an exceptionally busy time.

This problem has intrigued me for a long time...

There are of course many phenomena in this world which are not explained and it is possible to say that the orthodox scientist is the last person to accept that something new (or old) may exist which cannot be explained in accordance with his understanding of the natural laws.

I will read your book when I can—again many thanks for it.

Yours sincerely
Alexander.

Lord Alexander had not then even read the book but had a very open mind.

Just after Lord Ward became Minister for Air we had the famous "Ballooney" case when, if memory serves me right, a balloon travelling at around eight hundred miles per hour was seen both visually and on radar. This case caused enough rumpus to demand questions in the

House. Despite the evidence, George Ward gave as the Government's considered opinion that it was naught but the ubiquitous weather balloon, and some wag on the opposite bench said " In fact it is all Ballooney! (Laughter)".*

I couldn't let this go unchallenged, so I phoned the Minister and politely hinted he was a fibber. He laughed and said: " What am I to say? *I* know it wasn't a balloon. *You* know it wasn't a balloon. But until I've got a saucer on the ground in Hyde Park and can charge the public 6d. a go to enter, it must be balloons, otherwise the Government would fall and I'd lose my job." He went on to explain the difficult position he found himself in along with other members of H.M.G. and said that if he admitted flying saucers without evidence that the general public could actually touch, they would consider the Government had gone barmy and lose their faith in them.

Rather apologetic

I also challenged him, at the time of the Flight Lieut. Salandin Case† (Salandin almost flew smack into a saucer near the Thames Estuary), when the aerodrome responsible had its switchboard blocked with enquiries. I asked why the Air Minister had issued an order forbidding pilots to report such happenings to the public or the press. He replied: " Look, I'm trying to run an air force. When a story like this breaks, the poor C.O. is driven frantic. His telephone is jammed with calls and he is unable to get on with the business of running an efficient airfield." He was rather apologetic, but I sympathised with him. UFO sightings must be extremely annoying to the good service commander who wants to use his telephone and finds it perpetually engaged.

Now all this throws a pretty clear light on the official attitude and requires little explanation. The Government privately admits the overriding probability of flying saucers. But it has enough worries on its hands, and it knows that it only has to put a toe out of line for its critics to make life as difficult as possible. It therefore feels that to admit a belief in saucers without being able to prove it *physically* for all to see would be courting trouble with a capital "T." As the editorial " FEAR " in the March-April issue so aptly points out, it is, and has always been, the policy of governments since time immemorial to tell lies, from white to ever-increasing shades of grey, if by so doing will spare it embarrassment. George Ward believed, but he couldn't say so in public. No doubt his Department still believes (indeed, the evidence now is much greater than in 1954 when the subject was relatively new), but they will not hint publicly at this belief by so much as a flicker of an eyelid. Not unless, that is, they received a directive from the Secretary of State himself, and he would surely not make one without consultation with the Prime Minister and his Cabinet. Can one at the moment imagine our Prime Minister further burdening himself with extra-terrestrial events?

Values differ

I think George Ward was politically right. If he believed that to go into the House and admit the truth about flying saucers without being able to show a landed saucer to an all-party select committee would court laughter and cries of " Resign! ", then his party loyalties should come first—as a politician that is. As a human being the values may differ. But it is asking rather a lot of any human being to throw away his career and to jeopardise his government for an ideal. Particularly when, despite a most impassioned statement, he might still be unable to convince people and be forced to resign anyway.

Personally I don't think it would have come to that. I think if he had answered the " Ballooney " question with a statement to the effect that as far as they could tell it was in fact a mechanical object far and away beyond the technical resources of Earth to build, the majority would have accepted it, and Ufology would have been advanced many years in one sitting. But that is only my personal view, and I am not a politician with plenty to lose.

Fakes

Regarding the American official statements on UFOs. These can be completely disregarded since the U.2 incident. On this occasion a most laborious fake flight plan was issued to the Russians conclusively proving that no U.2 other than a weather plane could possibly have penetrated Soviet territory. The Russians waited till this had been published and then produced the plane, the pilot, the espionage instruments, the lot; making the official statement sound pretty silly. The most interesting comparison is the similarity between this statement and the statements that are made from time to time " proving " that mechanically-propelled space ships are, in fact, the planet Venus, weather balloons, temperature inversions, etc. They read the same;

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* For details of this classic sighting and " explanation " see *Flying Saucers and Commonsense,* by Waveney Girvan. A whole chapter is devoted to the West Malling incident.

† See FLYING SAUCER REVIEW. Vol. 1, No. 1 (January, 1955.

they smell the same. They ARE the same—fakes!

The treatment received by Alex Birch at the Air Ministry is absolutely true to form, and we can expect no variation on this until we have a Government or Minister courageous enough to stick his neck out in public.

Editor's note. Desmond Leslie's revelations will throw some light on the letter which our reader, Mr. W. J. Anstee, of Canada, received from Mr. A. R. White, of the British Air Ministry. Mr. A. R. White (we apologise to him for giving him an incorrect first initial in our March-April issue) was the person who interviewed Alex Birch and his father in connection with the Sheffield photograph which was finally declared to be of ice particles over that city.

The Hon. George Ward, as he then was, has admitted that it would not be possible for the Government to pronounce on the subject of flying saucers until it could point to some concrete evidence in its possession. It is in this context that Mr. White's use of the word "proof" must be considered. It is also instructive to note that he states that the great majority of sightings can be explained in mundane terms. This is true provided that the "explanations" are uncritically accepted as they probably are by the majority. Mr. White's letter is printed in full below:

AIR MINISTRY, S.6.,
WHITEHALL, LONDON, S.W.1.

Dear Mr. Anstee,

I am writing in reply to your letter of 30th January, 1963, about unidentified flying objects.

The Air Ministry's concern is defence and reports of unidentified flying objects are investigated as they come in provided there is sufficient information for this to be done. In the great majority of cases the sightings can be explained in mundane terms. The remainder are uninvestigated because there is not enough information for a complete investigation.

The Air Ministry does not possess any proof of the existence of the so-called "flying saucers."

Yours faithfully,
R. H. White

RUSSIA'S MOON DISCOVERY

Russia's most controversial astronomer, Nikolai Kozyrev, who claimed to have observed a volcano in the moon crater, Alphonsus, in 1958, now believes he has observed hydrogen gas issuing from the moon crater, Aristarchus.

If confirmed, this will cause a further sensation among astronomers. Kozyrev's earlier claim was received with great scepticism—but exhaustive studies of his photographs have now convinced most astronomers that he saw an emission of gas containing carbon.

This in itself is startling enough, since it is evidence that the moon is not a world which has come to a complete standstill, but that things are happening on it.

Kozyrev thinks the moon is hot enough inside to drive gases out through cracks and even produce lava flows. Most other astronomers dispute this. They accept that gas may occasionally escape, but hold that it is cold gas, and is made to shine by the action of sunlight on it.

Kozyrev's latest observations, according to first reports from Moscow, have convinced him that the hydrogen gas in Aristarchus—which is the brightest spot on the moon—is coming out hot.

Professor J. Ring, of Hull University, who has been following up some of Kozyrev's lunar studies, said yesterday he thought hot gas very unlikely. But it was conceivable that compounds of carbon and hydrogen—like, for instance, marsh gas—might be trapped under the surface. Being light, such compounds would tend to rise to the surface.

If they escaped, ultra-violet light from the sun could break up the compound into molecules of hydrogen and carbon. This hydrogen might then show up by analysing the spectrum of light from the crater.

The first news of Kozyrev's discovery did not say when he saw the gas, or how long the gas emission lasted. Professor Ring commented: "If he keeps on finding things like this we shall have to start keeping regular watches on particular craters like he does."

(This account was contributed by the Science Correspondent of the London *Observer* on February 2.)

TWO CLASSIC SIGHTINGS

The *Review* publishes for the first time in its columns two sightings from the past. They will probably be new to many of our readers, but our purpose in reprinting these accounts from the *Australian Flying Saucer Magazine* of May, 1953, is to correct an impression gained by the general public that sightings today are caused by misinterpretations of sputniks, satellites and what are now regarded as conventional spacecraft manufactured by one or other of the powers on earth. The first Russian sputnik, it must be borne in mind, was launched in 1957. Neither Russia nor America had penetrated outer space before that year.

The Mount Kilimanjaro Enigma

FEBRUARY 19, 1951, dawned bright and clear at Nairobi, Kenya Colony, East Africa. At Nairobi West Airport, the regular Monday morning Lodestar was readied as usual for its morning flight to Mombasa, and soon passengers filed aboard, little dreaming, any of them, of what was to meet their astounded eyes barely 20 minutes later. At 7 a.m. exactly, with nine passengers and a crew of two aboard, the Lodestar took off.

All went well until 7.20 a.m., when suddenly the radio officer drew the attention of his superior, Captain J. Bicknell, to a bright object like a white star, apparently hanging motionless easily 10,000 ft. above Mount Kilimanjaro. Captain Bicknell's first reaction, he said later, was to say nothing. The two watched the strange object for three minutes, then, as it showed no signs of vanishing, informed the passengers. One began promptly studying the oddity, amazedly, through a powerful pair of field-glasses, whilst the radio officer flashed an excited call to Eastleigh, nearby, giving an account and description of the thing. Eastleigh's suggestion flashed in return was that the object might be a drifting meteorological balloon, but checking on that possibility, after inspecting the enigmatic object for several minutes, Captain Bicknell found that the more he examined it, the less it could possibly be mistaken for a balloon. It was a dull silver colour and marked at regular intervals along the fuselage with vertical dark bands. The entire outline, he found, was unmistakeably distinct: nor, though it appeared to be incredibly distant, was its sharp outline obscured in the least detail by intervening haze.

Captain Bicknell estimated the thing was over 200 ft. long, bullet-shaped, and apparently constructed of metal which shone brightly. On first sighting it, the Lodestar was heading roughly towards it and, watching it closely as they approached, Captain Bicknell perceived another detail. The thing possessed a square-cut vertical fin at one end. There were no signs of movement; it was absolutely stationary. So it remained for 17 minutes.

Passengers of the Lodestar were now taking turns with the field-glasses, and two of them had commenced taking photographs, when suddenly the enormous thing began to move eastwards, slowly at first, and rising as it did so. Before it reached 40,000 ft., at which point it was ultimately lost sight of, the sides of the awesome, whale-like object were seen clearly to be without a break in their smoothness; no windows or portholes relieved the harsh purity of line, no engine mounts or jet pods marred the perfectly streamlined hull.

The day being exceptionally clear, there were no cloud formations in evidence anywhere, and Captain Bicknell calculated that in the three minutes of visible movement the bullet-shaped object covered 60 miles; that, in other words, its speed could have been nothing short of 1,000 m.p.h. during the period of observed flight. It left behind no vapour trail and, to all who saw it, had no visible means of propulsion.

During an interview some days later, Captain Bicknell said that his impression was that the unidentified thing was some kind of flying machine, and with this his radio officer, a Mr. D. W. Merrifield, unhesitatingly agreed. A "mirage" was suggested as the possible cause, but the radio officer discounted it. "Mirages are rarely seen without cloud," he stated, "nor would that explain the object's movement." He com-

Tell your friends about Flying Saucer Review

mented that if the object was a flying machine "it was 500 years ahead of anything we have today."

Nairobi *Sunday Post* the following Sunday said: "If this report had come from a few isolated individuals it would soon be discounted, but it came from responsible airline officials and nine ordinary travellers." It, too, dismissed both the balloon and mirage theories, and concluded that hopes of a "natural" explanation had begun to fade. Other theories ranged from Martian visitors to radio-controlled weapons.

Fragmentary evidence accrued since then increase the sum total of knowledge but little. U.S. *Life* magazine early in 1952 published a sketch of the object, which showed it to closely resemble an ordinary lipstick tube lying on its side. Later, in connection with learning the whereabouts of the photographs taken from Captain Bicknell's plane, the Australian Flying Saucer Bureau learnt that "the only known public photograph of the object shows a blurred spot on the film." A motion-picture film taken by another passenger was "quite clear," but the same reliable source stated, either laconically or ominously, it is hard to tell which, that "the man with the film is supposed to have disappeared."

The "Llandovery Castle" mystery

The report of what is believed to be the largest saucer ever observed reached the Australian Flying Saucer Bureau from Nairobi, East Africa. Eye witness, Mrs. A. M. King, of P.O. Box 2162, Nairobi, wrote:

"I left Mombasa at the end of June, 1947, on the s.s. *Llandovery Castle* en route to Cape Town, and going through the Straits of Madagascar about the beginning of July was on deck with another lady passenger at approximately 11 p.m. when we noticed a particularly bright star. It was travelling very fast and approached the ship. Suddenly a searchlight appeared which flashed a strong beam of light on the water within 50 yards of the ship. It descended, its beam shortening and becoming brighter as it neared the water, and the next instant there was no more light, but an object appeared apparently made of steel and shaped like a cigar cut at the rear end. It remained in the air about 20 ft. above the sea, parallel with the *Llandovery Castle,* and travelling in the same direction.

"Gaining a little in speed, after a second or two the whole shape disappeared without a sound, from the rear issuing fierce flames which shot out to about half the length of the object. It appeared that there must be something like a huge furnace inside the thing, but still we could hear no noise from the flames. No windows could be seen, only a band of metal round the entire thing, which, if it had been a complete cigar-shape would have been centrally situated.

"The object was very large, about four times the length of the *Llandovery Castle,* and at a rough guess about four times as high.

"We had a wonderful view, but in a few seconds it disappeared. No light was seen forward as it left; it just vanished soundlessly in the darkness. For a while we thought we were the only ones on deck at that late hour, but walking to the prow of the ship we saw there one of the ship's officers with a few passengers, the entire party of whom had seen the same thing. Whether it is recorded in the ship's log, I know not.

"The story I related to my husband and friends, but without them showing any enthusiasm. I let the matter drop, and to my surprise read later of Captain Bicknell's experience over Mount Kilimanjaro in 1951, and saw the exact shape in an illustration of what I had seen and drawn previously for my husband and several friends."

Mrs. King's sketch of the object enclosed with her report tallies in most major respects with a sketch of the object seen by Captain Bicknell and others over Mt. Kilimanjaro in February, 1951, the only perceptible differences being that Mrs. King's reported object did not possess a rear fin as did the Bicknell object; nor did it possess any more than one dark, encircling band about its middle. The Bicknell object had several bands encircling its middle.

Time, Saucers and the Fourth Dimension

By Charles Bowen

This article is frankly speculative, and it has been prompted by views expressed in a recent issue of the *Review* suggesting that the mystery of the UFOs was even deeper than many of us suspect. It is offered in the hope that it will prove controversial.

MAY I make some observations about Luis Schoenherr's interesting article "UFOs and the Fourth Dimension."

Could there not be a link between the time-traveller theory and the type of UFO or saucer which appears at points along straight lines on the Earth's surface? Mr. Schoenherr suggests that the visitors could be Earth-folk using a fourth dimension to journey back to our times from the relatively near future. As he says, this would be a feat requiring exceptional navigational accuracy, in that travellers in such a dimension would need to stay on or near the Earth's surface to avoid shooting off into space.

Perhaps this is an explanation why certain UFOs materialise at points along clearly-defined lines around the globe, and why they return along the *same* lines from time to time. In other words, materialisation can take place only along these lines, or routes, where their four-dimensional space impinges on our three-dimensional world. These lines would also be chosen carefully to preclude the possibility of collision.

This thought leads directly to what I can only imagine are new and surprising ideas.

Shock on Contact

Among the sightings quoted by Aimé Michel in *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery* were a number of the contact variety. Shock was experienced by the contactees, and no attempts were made at communication. This behaviour may seem unreasonable, but it is unlikely that time-travellers would want to say or do anything calculated to upset or unbalance that time in *our* future in which *their* society exists in three-dimensional surroundings.

The beings involved in the more widely publicised contact claims are generally similar in appearance to Earth-men and understand a number of man's languages. In fact, these are the very types one would expect to come back from our future, but according to Adamski, Allingham and others, the visitors, who have "messages" for us on Earth, claim to have come from Venus, Mars, Saturn, and so on.

Maybe some people derive a measure of comfort from these "evangelical" contacts, but no comfort can be found in a new development arising from some of the recent news from Italian contact claimants. In some of these we are presented with statements that there is a condition of war in inter-stellar space, and if these are to be believed we are left with some shattering possibilities. If the beings responsible for shock contacts are merely visitors in our accustomed dimensions, then they may well be denizens of the other side in the "war." If, however, they are time-travellers manifesting at points along fixed geographical lines, perhaps they are aliens who at some time in our future have defeated our descendants!

PERSONAL COLUMN

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SAUCER FORUM may restart soon. All interested contact J. Goddard, Wynchlands, Walton Bridge Road, Shepperton, Middlesex.

THE BRITISH U.F.O. ASSOCIATION comprises eleven UFO societies. Members receive the Association's quarterly Journal. For details of membership, write: 12 Dorset Road, Cheam, Surrey.

NO LIFE ON VENUS?

THE newspapers on February 22 made great play of the alleged findings by Mariner II spacecraft that the atmosphere on the surface of Venus would be too hot for life. However, enquiries made at the American Embassy in London revealed that the newspapers had made rather too much of the hand-out and that it would be wiser to await a fuller report which would be forthcoming later. For the record we print below the hand-out as issued to the British Press:

"Washington, February 26 — America's Mariner spacecraft found Venus to be molten hot and without water, thus ruling out the possibility of life on the planet.

"The probe recorded temperatures of 800 degrees Fahrenheit (422 degrees C.) at the surface of the planet. Detectors were unable to find a trace of water.

"Scientists made this report Tuesday at a news conference summarising results of Mariner's historic fly-by of Venus last December 14.

"The 447-pound (201-kg) Mariner was launched from earth on August 27, 1962, and 109 days later flew within 21,594 miles (34,550 kms) of Venus after a 180-million-mile curving trip.

"Scientists have spent more than two months studying the data from two electronic scanners that measured the planet's temperature and that tried to find evidence of life-supporting water.

"Mariner's findings, coupled with earth-based studies by radiotelescope and radar, add up to this picture of Venus: Intolerably hot, sandy, dotted with molten lakes, perpetually darkened by clouds, non-magnetic and rotating imperceptibly slowly on its axis."

This was the consensus of the scientific instruments aboard Mariner and interpreted its findings.

"At those extreme temperatures, it is not likely [that life] of the sort we know can survive on Venus," said Dr. Homer Newell, Director of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Office of Space Sciences. "There is a low order of life that the biologists talk about possible in the upper atmosphere," he added.

Mariner found the temperature at the top of Venus's clouds to be a frigid minus 60 degrees F. (minus 15 degrees C.), reported Dr. Lewis Kaplan, of California's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). The laboratory built Mariner for NASA. He estimated that the clouds begin about 45 miles (70 kms) above Venus and extend out to about 60 miles (100 kms). The clouds are thick, ever present, and are likely made up of a "smog" of condensed hydrocarbons. Mariner, he said, found no water or carbon dioxide in them. Earth-based studies have indicated the clouds are composed of carbon dioxide and nitrogen. Dr. Kaplan said a "cold spot" Mariner detected in the clouds could indicate the possibility of "a mountain or other surface feature" directly below on Venus.

Dr. Newell said Mariner radioed back 65 million bits of information from the two scanners and four other instruments that probed interplanetary space en route to Venus.

(*Continued on page* 25)

The cat peeps out of the bag

According to the "Camberley News" of March 15, Mr. Harold Watkinson, M.P., nearly let the cat out of the bag recently. The report reads as follows:

"Mr. Harold Watkinson, Tory M.P. for Woking, was asked at a public meeting in Frimley last week: 'Why is the Government trying to hush up the sightings of flying saucers?'

"The question came from an elderly woman sitting in the front row of a packed village hall. She added: 'Whenever these visitors from space are sighted, newspapers and television are ordered not to report the fact. Why is the public not kept informed?'

"Mr. Watkinson, who resigned as Minister of Defence in last year's Cabinet reshuffle, replied: 'Before I left the Ministry, I had to sign a large number of papers promising never to reveal certain facts I had learned as Minister of Defence. The subject of flying saucers may be included'."

GOOD ADVICE FROM THE PAST

By Waveney Girvan

"WHEN any new and unexplained phenomenon offers itself to our inquiry, the first duty of the investigator is to inform himself, with the most scrupulous accuracy, of all the circumstances, however minute, which accompany it; and if past observation cannot answer all circumstantial inquiries which his understanding may suggest as necessary, he must patiently wait the recurrence of a like phenomenon, and diligently observe. When he shall thus have collected all the circumstances that can be imagined to throw light on its origin, he will then, and not until then, be in a condition to justify an inquiry into its cause." This excellent advice is to be found in *Popular Physics*, a book written by Dionysius Lardner, D.C.L., and published in 1856. Dr. Lardner was a prolific writer on science and ranged widely in his interests. It can be recorded that he practised what he preached: he was fair and open-minded, much more so than many of his successors. It is of interest to speculate as to what he would have made of flying saucers had he been alive today.

Clarity of thought

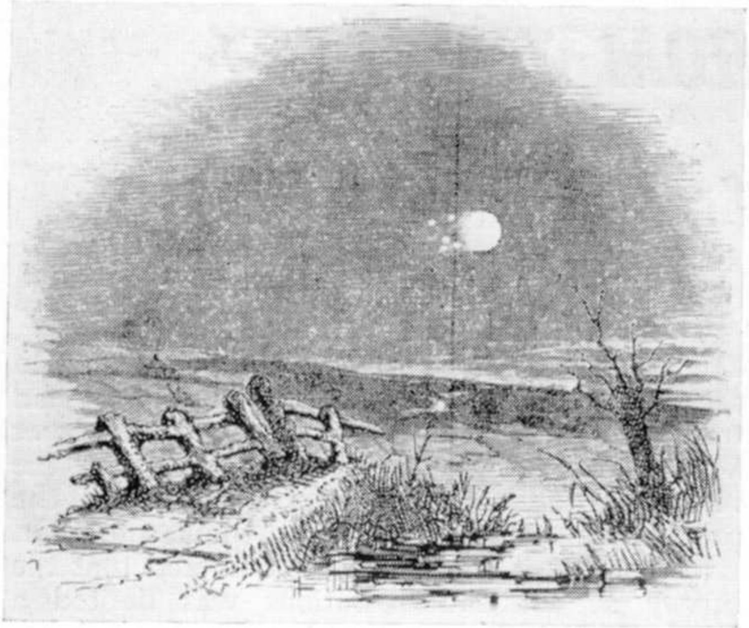
As it happens, it would appear that he *was* confronted with the mystery of UFOs, for his words of wisdom appear early in his chapter on meteoric stones and shooting stars. He realised, obviously, that many things that were observed must remain an enigma and he approached his subject with humility. He used the generic description of strange objects as meteors, but it is clear that he did not, like so many scientists of today, claim that by calling an object by a familiar name he had automatically explained the object away. Here, for instance, is his comment on the subject: "On more attentive inspection, it was seen that the meteors exhibited three distinct varieties; the first consisting of *phosphoric lines*, apparently described by a point; the second of *large fire-balls*, that at intervals darted along the sky, leaving numerous trains, which occasionally were in view for a number of minutes, and in some cases for half an hour or more; the third, of undefined, *luminous bodies*, which remained nearly stationary for a long time." (The italics are Dr. Lardner's.)

The word "undefined" has a very modern ring. The scientific writers of today, however, would set about these poor "undefineds" until they had translated them into weather balloons, the planet Venus, mirages, hoaxes, hallucinations and the rest of the gallimaufry so dear to the heart of the professional sceptic. We must, I think, salute Dr. Lardner, but it should be remembered that the supply of conventionalisations was limited a hundred years ago. It was too late for witches and dragons and it was too early for the weather balloon and its radio-sonde. Even the doctor's elastic brain would have been stretched too far to accommodate an aeroplane, let alone a sputnik.

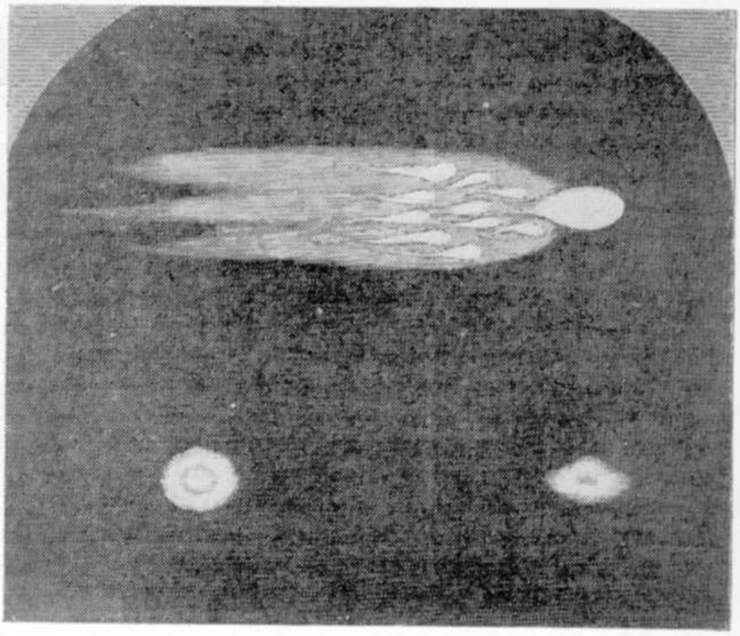
Rational explanation

Dr. Lardner was also extremely honest in his observations. He referred to the hypothesis currently being offered to explain the origin and behaviour of the meteors which had been observed by reputable astronomers. He concluded by remarking: "Instead of meteors being attracted to the earth, some of them are observed actually to rise upward and to describe orbits which are convex toward the earth, a circumstance of which, on the present hypothesis, it seems difficult to give any rational explanation." A hundred years ago a certain caution is to be observed in the scientific world. Today a lack of rational explanation no longer deters—an irrational one will serve just as well.

The worthy doctor, although designating all such unidentified objects as "meteors," was the first to admit that the full explanation was beyond the body of contemporary knowledge. He instances many dramatic incidents which had been recorded in several parts of the world. On August 9, for instance, between 9 p.m. and midnight, 149 such objects were observed at Geneva and its neighbourhood. Of these 149, three had the appearance of round discs, or globes, of a ruddy red colour, measuring from four to five minutes in diameter and twenty-six were more brilliant than the planet Venus. Twenty-seven were remarkable for their white, bluish light. Other colours varied between blue, yellow and orange. On November 11, 1832,



Meteor of the evening of Sunday, November 13, 1803.



Meteor of August 18, 1783, as seen from Windsor. The two lower figures represent it a few seconds before its explosion.

similar objects caused a panic at Limoges. For five hours, from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. the sky circus continued and gave rise to the belief that the end of the world was at hand.

Two illustrations from Dr. Lardner's book are here reproduced, and as the author keeps an open mind so shall I and add no comment to his own captions.

To revert to Dr. Lardner's good advice which was quoted at the beginning of this article, I think it should be addressed not only to the complete sceptic. His words would seem to apply equally well to those who, while believing in the reality of flying saucers, refuse to contemplate the possibility of contact. The FLYING SAUCER REVIEW's policy has always tried to follow Dr. Lardner's advice: "He (the investigator) must patiently wait the recurrence of a like phenomenon, and diligently observe. When he shall thus have collected all the circumstances that can be imagined to throw light on its origin, he will then, and not until then, be in a condition to justify an inquiry into its cause." It cannot be denied that the contact claims are evidence (however unsatisfactory they may appear to many), that they recur and that, in the context of the whole saucer mystery, they call for the most searching inquiry.

Men of other planets
The Vatican newspaper's views

The London *Daily Express* reported that the current issue of the Vatican newspaper, *Osservatore Romano* had reverted to the subject of intelligent beings on other planets. It commented that if people did indeed live there they could be beyond redemption. Further, it said that space people are outside man's path to salvation as laid down by the doctrine of original sin and the redemption of Jesus Christ.

The newspaper then continued: "But if intelligent beings do exist on other planets there must be a way of saving them. At the end of life they might be destined to a natural happiness in the natural enjoyment of God. Or they might be in a supernatural state, like Adam before his sin. Then they would be without disease, death or ignorance. . . and would pass without dying to the happiness of paradise."

A black-and-white print taken from the colour photograph and submitted to the REVIEW by David Rudman.

A COLOUR PHOTOGRAPH

by David Rudman

I AM writing to inform you of the details of a sighting made by three men, all known to me. On Wednesday, November 28, 1962, they were travelling on the 10 a.m. "Flying Scotsman" from Edinburgh. Between Belford and Seahouses, on the north-east coast below Berwick-on-Tweed, the train was travelling at a very slow speed (about 15 m.p.h.) and one of the men, a keen amateur photographer, decided to use the opportunity to take some colour photographs of the coastline. At 11.20 a.m., glancing through the window at the opposite side of the carriage, i.e. looking inland, he saw an enormous oval-shaped object, grey in colour with three parallel luminous bands running along its length and a slight fuzziness at one end. His immediate reaction was an amazed "Good heavens (or words to that effect), a flying saucer!" His two companions, after suggesting he put more water in it next time, had their attention drawn to the object and all three stared at it with some incredulity for nearly two minutes, for although it seemed to be at least a mile away it would have covered *eight inches of a ruler held at arm's length.*

All three men are engineers, not prone to exaggeration, and they stand by this remarkable statement which suggests that the object, whatever it was, must have been of colossal proportions. Fortunately they had the presence of mind to remember the camera, and a very successful photograph was taken, copies of which I enclose. For a few *seconds* afterwards their attention was taken from the object to check the camera and when they looked back the object had disappeared completely. They told me that they were staggered by this total disappearance in so short a space of time. I have interviewed all three men (two of them are colleagues of mine) and they are

quite certain that they were looking at a solid object.

A Met. Office report for that area shows that the cloud base was 3,500 ft. with a westerly wind of 7 m.p.h. The photograph was developed by Kodak, who made a colour transparency from which the prints were produced. The photographer is a director of an engineering firm in the north of England and although I have his permission to make what use I like of his experience and photograph, he does not want his name brought into it. The names of all three gentlemen are, of course, known to me.

The Italian Scene—Part 3

Bruno Ghibaudi's contact claim

By GORDON W. CREIGHTON

Interest in flying saucers continues unabated in the Italian weekly press. Last year, Bruno Ghibaudi submitted several remarkable photographs of saucers and now he claims further knowledge through contact. The *Flying Saucer Review* prints the following summary of two articles which appeared in *Le Ore* on January 24 and 31 of this year and, in accordance with its declared policy, neither accepts nor rejects the evidence.

LE ORE carries several photos of Ghibaudi, who is himself a journalist in Turin. He is very well known to the Italian TV and radio public as he has been for a number of years one of their chief reporters on scientific matters, especially aviation and space-travel.

Under the banner-headlines, " Bruno Ghibaudi Confirms: Yes, I Have Talked to the Pilots of the Flying Saucers," he begins by explaining that two years ago he was asked by his chiefs to prepare a TV programme about people who claimed that they had seen flying saucers. He had not paid any attention to the subject and was merely open-minded about it all. When he began to travel around Italy interviewing people he was flabbergasted (just as Renato Albanese of *La Domenica del Corriere* was—see the last two issues of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW) to discover that it was not only in foreign countries that people had seen UFOs, as reported by the press, but that all over Italy, his own country, there were large numbers who had seen them, or taken photos of them, or met the pilots, or secured pieces of metal and other materials left by saucers that had landed, and so forth.

Ghibaudi adds (just as Renato Albanese did) that his task of going round collecting this information was no easy one. Why? Because, as he says, so many people who had had these experiences or taken these pictures and had then spoken up boldly about it, had either lost their jobs or been subjected to avalanches of ridicule and molestation, or hours of grilling by officialdom, and were by now thoroughly sick of the whole thing and loath to open their mouths again. Nevertheless, Ghibaudi completed his preliminary tour of enquiry. And, like Renato Albanese, he was shaken by the results.

A familiar attitude

In the meantime his TV chiefs had told him that the projected programme on saucers was " off." (We are quite familiar with this sort of thing, particularly in the U.S.A. during the past 15 years, and it is interesting to note a very different attitude of late where the British radio and TV authorities are concerned.) But Ghibaudi was by then fascinated, and convinced of the existence of the saucers. He therefore continued the investigation on his own account, and is today held to be one of the principal experts on our subject in Italy.

The first part of his interview is a recapitula-

tion of the main outlines of the UFO problem, beginning with the "Foo Fighters" in World War II, so I pass over this and come now to the really startling part.

Ghibaudi claims in fact that, in the summer of 1961, he was invited to go to meet some of the space-people. The meeting took place in a house, the location of which he refuses to divulge, and in the presence of several witnesses, one of whom was the go-between who had brought him the invitation.

Ghibaudi goes on to explain that the human form is, in fact "universal throughout the Cosmos, as part of a general harmony—and yet the idea of this has generally been rejected by Earthmen as impossible, no doubt because, *as almost always, the truth is too simple to be accepted.*" Apart, therefore, from various sorts of superficial differences, Man throughout the Universe resembles us (although Ghibaudi is careful to agree that some of their internal organs may well be different and even designed to perform quite different functions).

Visitors from many places

These space visitors, he says, are coming to our planet at this time of crisis from many different worlds. Hence the radical variations, as regards size and so forth, among the various reports of people who have seen them or met them. When asked from where the saucers were coming he indicated that they were coming from a number of places including, perhaps, Mars and Venus.

What is happening now is simply that the infant civilisation of Earth-Man being at a point of particularly grave crisis, the space beings are prepared to reveal themselves to us more. Ghibaudi confirms, then, their benevolence and their desire to help us. But our visitors have an exact estimate of our natures and of the level that we have reached. Their aim is to prevent nuclear disaster. Ghibaudi says flatly that they have indicated their firm intention to intervene if it becomes unavoidable. But he adds that we must bear in mind that although many thousands of years ahead of us technically and scientifically (not to mention morally), they are not omnipotent deities. They are men. So we must not rely on them to get us out of our difficulties. For, not being infallible, even their efforts and their concern might not always suffice to avert disaster if something went wrong or some accident nullified their plans to avert the worst.

On the subject of the atomic weapons, Ghibaudi points out that while the extraterrestrials are clearly fully capable of destroying such weapons (and here I would remind readers of the Russian reports of two cases of "direct action" by UFOs that I gave last year), the human heart would nevertheless remain unchanged. We should still retain the ability and, above all, the *intention,* to build fresh nuclear devices. For this reason, says Ghibaudi, the extraterrestrials are working in a more subtle manner to influence the minds of men. They fully realise the dangers of any kind of broad prohibitive action. They know that in the last analysis Earth-Man must make his own way.

Other reasons

It will be noted that, while Ghibaudi agrees that one of the principal reasons for their revealing themselves more to Earth-Man at present is the nuclear bomb, he also makes it clear that there are also other reasons, of which he is forbidden to speak.

Ghibaudi confirms that the principal consideration in the minds of our benevolent visitors in adopting so reticent a policy towards us is not merely the great dangers that would result from panic—tremendous as these dangers would no doubt be where primitive and backward creatures like ourselves were concerned. But all this is not the really serious danger. The real danger lies in the fact that—as the space people well know—their open appearance among Earth-Men would lead to *comparisons,* sad comparisons, and Earth-Man might feel so deflated, so inferior, that he might lose hope. We all can visualise what the effect might be on politicians (on both sides of the Iron Curtain).

I quote Ghibaudi's words at this point:

"The *real* problem is, nevertheless, not panic at all. Our masses are not yet ready for a revelation of this kind. . . . The real problem is something quite different. Do not let us forget that between their science and ours there is a gap of thousands of years, and that for this reason an 'official' mass descent of space beings from other planets would inevitably bring about comparisons between their worlds . . . and ours. How could such an encounter be permitted? At an inner level, we should quite certainly be severely shaken as a result of it, and they do not want to alarm us in any way. And this is all the more so, inasmuch as there are cosmic laws which prevent the more evolved races from interfering, beyond certain limits, in the evolution and development of the more backward races. For every race must be the maker of its own progress, paying the price for it with its sacrifices, its failures, and its victories. There are also other reasons, but I am not permitted to reply to you about those."

Although suggesting that space entities have always been visiting or passing by our Earth, Ghibaudi also admits that some of them are so much like us in appearance that they are in fact living among us now. Infiltration, he claims, is a fact. He confirms, too, that in their chance meetings with Earth-Men they sometimes communicate by gesture, sometimes by telepathy, and sometimes in the language of the person whom they meet. After all, people who are so advanced technically as their flying machines indicate them to be can hardly be expected to have difficulty in learning all our main languages from our broadcasts before they even land here.

Asked whether *war* existed among the space peoples, Ghibaudi replied that he had no precise information, but that he felt sure the struggle between good and evil must be found in some form or other throughout the Universe "wherever there are created beings."

Questioned next as to whether such "human" sentiments as love, hate, friendship, loyalty, solidarity, were found among the extraterrestrials whom he had met, Ghibaudi replied emphatically: "The experience that I have had of them permits me to affirm that in them the good sentiments are enormously strong, while the bad sentiments are almost entirely absent."

MYSTERY SATELLITES

IN the January-February, 1961, issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW there appeared an article contributed by Gordon W. Creighton concerning the mystery object tracked in orbit by the Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation of Bethpage, Long Island, New York. The REVIEW printed the tracking photograph kindly supplied by the Grumman Corporation and this clearly showed that the satellite was travelling in the opposite direction to all satellites launched either by America or Russia. Although the tracking was confirmed by other corporations in the U.S.A., nothing more has been heard of the mystery object.

The London *Evening Standard*, however, has revived the subject. In its issue of March 15, Peter Fairley writes: "Ten military satellites are now orbiting over Russia on secret missions. A further 21 have been sent up during the past year, for an average period of three weeks in space. All were launched by the U.S. Air Force. *But six other large spacecraft have been orbited —some passed repeatedly over Britain — to which neither the United States nor the Soviet Union will own up. No mention is made of these 'orphans' in official American space records, which are published monthly. Even confidential lists mark them only as 'Unannounced' and 'Status Unknown.'*"*

Peter Fairley quotes a Ministry of Defence spokesman in London as saying that the mystery objects could be part of Russia's Cosmos series of sputniks, but American experts disagree.

Because of the direction in which it was orbiting ruled out an earthly origin, the satellite discovered by the Grumman Corporation remains unidentified. Peter Fairley, however, does not afford us sufficient information to make any guess as to the source of the six "status-unknowns." In view of the *Evening Standard's* editorial dismissal of flying saucers (see leading article in this issue), it is not surprising that its contributor should not even consider the possibility that the unknowns are neither Russian nor American. The British Air Ministry's view? "No comment."

* Our italics.—Editor.

OLD BUT TRUE

Can the astronomer or the geologist, the physicist or the biologist, know more on this subject than those who have no special knowledge of astronomy, or geology, or physics or biology? The astronomer can say how large such and such a planet is, its average density, the length of its day and its year, the light-reflecting qualities of its surface, even (with the physicist's aid) the nature of the atmosphere surrounding it, and so on . . . But no astronomer, or geologist, or physicist, or biologist, can tell us anything certain about life in other worlds. Richard A. Proctor, *Science Byways (1882)*.

World round-up

of news and comment about recent sightings

ENGLAND

A sceptic's sighting

Miss Mary Sharp, of Shilton, near Coventry, writes to report the following sighting: "My mother, Mrs. E. L. Sharp, went up into the kitchen to draw the curtains at 5.20 p.m. on January 28. Our kitchen is up five steps and from the window there is a view of fields and a farm. She saw a blaze of light and stood, dumbfounded, watching it. Then it must have turned round and she made out four portholes with light coming from them. It was yellow-orange in colour. She watched it for about a minute, then it suddenly shot off in the direction of Rugby. My mother has seen pictures of them in the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, but did not expect to see one herself. She found her tongue just before it shot off and said: "There's one of those cigar-ships over there. I can see the portholes." Unfortunately it had gone by the time I reached the window. It had hung over the farmer's orchard about 250 to 300 yards away. It was just above the trees. It looked two feet long and one foot in depth—I do not know what that would make its actual size. It was extremely brilliant. There was no noise. We should be very interested to know whether any one else in this area saw it. The sighting has had its usual effect—my mother has come to believe in the existence of UFOs. Oddly enough, two days before that a lad who is keen on UFOlogy came to tea and stood looking out of that very window. My mother said to him: "You needn't look out of that window. You'll never see a flying saucer through it!"

Yeovil mystery

The following letter was printed in the *Western Gazette* in its issue of March 8: "Sir,—I wonder if any of your readers noticed anything unusual in the sky on Saturday evening, March 2, or can offer any explanation of what I saw.

"My attention was drawn to what, at first, appeared to be two stars lying close to each other, low in the sky, towards the north-east. This in itself did not seem unusual, until later I noticed that they were not in their original position; they were slowly moving in a westerly direction. I thought at first that it was an aeroplane.

"I began to doubt this, however, as the two 'lights' moved closer. It was 6.43 p.m. By now they had gained speed and brightness and appeared not to be passing as much east to west as coming towards me. Their colour when first sighted was similar to a star, but as they approached they became whiter.

"After a while they were directly ahead and quite high in the sky. Their elevation was approximately 45 degrees and in the north. They slowed and stopped. The 'lights' by now were very bright. The sky was clear and all was very quiet; there was no sound at all. Just these two weird 'lights.' They remained stationary for between 15 to 30 seconds, and then, moving slowly at first, then with ever-increasing speed, they vanished into the night in the direction from which they came. There was no noise at all from anywhere, and there was certainly nothing to suggest the presence of an aeroplane or helicopter. They vanished approximately 10 minutes after they were first sighted.

"What was it? Could it have been something from Yeovilton or Westland or was it another 'unidentified flying object'? Could anyone suggest?—R. C. P. Terrell, 40 St. Michael's Avenue, Yeovil.

"[Letters have been received from other Yeovil readers who give similar descriptions and times, asking if anyone has an explanation of these two 'bright lights.' Both Westland and the R.N. Air Station at Yeovilton state that none of their planes were flying at the time. — Editor.]"

Bolton revisited

In the March-April, 1962, issue, the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW reported a "wave" of sightings over Bolton in Lancashire. The *Bolton Evening News* on March 8 prints the following account of a new sighting over the town:

"A level-headed 12-years-old schoolgirl couldn't believe her eyes when she saw a flying saucer hovering in Bolton's evening sky. It happened when Jane Barnett was walking home along Albert Road West at 6 p.m. last Wednesday.

"'I gazed at it for several minutes as it hovered in the sky,' says Jane. 'It appeared slightly blurred, but I could see the shape quite clearly. And the colour appeared to be a dark silvery blue.'

"Jane made a quick sketch of the saucer, and her drawing shows the conventional bulging disc.

"'When Jane told me about it I thought at first that it was a figment of her imagination,' said

her father, Mr. Maurice Barnett, of 9 Greenmount Lane.

"'But I questioned her at considerable length about it and I am quite sure she must have seen something. It wasn't a balloon or anything like that.'"

Over Wallsend

The Newcastle - upon - Tyne *Evening Chronicle* carried the following report in its March 21 issue: "A Longbenton man has claimed he saw what may have been a flying saucer hovering over Wallsend.

"He is Mr. William Muir, of Rowanberry Road. He has written to the Editor of the *Evening Chronicle* in the hope that someone may be able to corroborate his story.

"He saw the 'object' on March 8, at about 8.30 in the evening, while walking in High Heaton.

"The object was shaped like two discs joined together by a tube and was grey-blue in colour he writes."

Wimbledon Saucer

The following account is taken from the *Wimbledon Boro' News* issue of March 15: "Artist David Briggs phoned the Air Ministry to report: 'I've seen a flying saucer. . . .' And now Mr. Briggs, Haydons Road, Wimbledon, wants to know: Did anyone else see it?

"'It would be good if someone could confirm the sighting,' he said.

"These are the details he gave the Air Ministry:

"Time of sighting: 3.55 a.m. on Wednesday last week (March 6).

"Description of unidentified flying object: Gleaming silver, a little smaller than Venus when it is nearest Earth, but not as bright. Circular, about 100 ft. in diameter.

"Speed: Over 500 m.p.h., apparently noiseless.

"Position: Somewhere over Wimbledon Common, speeding from south-west to north-east.

"Said 28-year-old Mr. Briggs: 'It was definitely not a weather balloon, meteor, comet or aircraft. I am interested in these matters and am too familiar with aircraft in particular to make such a mistake. I saw it when I went into the garden to investigate noises—I thought we might have had a raider. I saw the object for about 30 seconds before it disappeared behind cloud.'"

NORTHERN IRELAND

Search off Rathlin

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW reader Mr. T. Thompson has sent us the following account taken from the Belfast *News Letter* in its issue of March 21: "Trans-Atlantic shipping arriving in the United Kingdom altered course late last night to help Portrush lifeboat and coastal craft search an area off Rathlin Island after two red flares had been sighted by coastguards.

"At least one R.A.F. aircraft, believed to have been on exercise, was also diverted to assist in sweeping the area — about two miles off Bull Point lighthouse at the western end of the island.

"Repeated broadcasts were being made this morning for shipping passing the search area to look out for a vessel in distress. The alarm was raised by Ballycastle coastguards who estimated the position of the flares. No further distress signals had been seen.

"Mystery still surrounded the signals late this morning. No ships passing through the area—on a main coastal shipping route—reported having seen the flares. Many trans-Atlantic vessels which would normally pass about ten miles off shore on their way to Scotland had altered course to steam within two miles off Rathlin.

"This morning coastguards said the search area was ablaze with ships' lights as the search continued. It had been difficult, they said, to pin-point the position as only one bearing had been obtained on the flares."

FRANCE AND CHILE

The South China Sunday Post on January 26 printed the following account with a Pau, S.W. France, dateline:

"Two farm workers said they saw a luminous object in the sky yesterday afternoon while working near Livron, not far from here.

"They said they observed it for about 30 seconds as it moved, at high altitude, on a north-easterly course. It appeared round and flat and seemed to revolve, they said.

"In scattered districts of ~~Africa~~, Ar a north Chilean seaport, large numbers of people yesterday reported seeing a flying object cross the sky on Thursday night about midnight.

"The object, which appeared to be at normal aeroplane altitude, emitted flashes of bright blue light, the witnesses said, adding that the spectacle was like a lovely fireworks display."

NEW MEXICO

Something from outer space

The London *Daily Mail* on March 2 carried the following report: "An invader from outer space crashed into the Earth's atmosphere last month and bombarded New Mexico with cosmic rays.

"It was a mere nucleus of an atom—probably hydrogen—but it had 3,000,000,000 times more energy than anything U.S. scientists had so far produced.

"When it invaded the Earth it struck the nucleus of an atom of the air. The resulting atomic debris grew by a type of chain reaction into a shower of high-speed atomic particles.

"The cosmic ray shower covered an area of several square miles, bombarding the Earth for only an instant. But it lasted long enough to be recorded.

"Where did the invader come from? Physicists say because of its enormous power it must have

belonged to a much more active galaxy than our own—far beyond the Milky Way.

"The event is reported by Mr. John Linsley, of the Nuclear Science Laboratory at Massachusetts Institute of Technology."

AUSTRALIA

"I have no idea what it is"

The following account is taken from the *Sydney Morning Herald* for December 12, 1962:

"An unidentified crescent-shaped object sighted high in the sky at noon today (December 11, 1962) caused a stir at Albany, 253 miles south of Perth.

"The head of the meteorological staff at the Albany post office, Mr. Bernie Hall, watched the object for nearly three and a half hours. 'The object is definitely not a weather balloon of the type used by Australian weather stations,' he said. 'I have no idea what it is.'

"The acting Government astronomer, Mr. B. J. Harris, said at the Perth Observatory today he had received information about the object from Mr Hall, but could not identify it.

"'At the moment it is a mystery, and we have not been able to pick it up,' he said.

"No aircraft were flying in the Albany area at the time of the sighting. The post office staff first saw the object while tracking a weather balloon at midday. It was white, appeared to be of considerable size and crescent-shaped. The object was moving in a south-westerly direction at slightly spasmodic speeds ranging from about six to eight degrees an hour—from 320 to 560 miles an hour.

"A news broadcast by a local radio station brought scores of people out of doors. The object was only barely visible at times to the naked eye, but it could be seen quite clearly through the balloon tracking telescope at the post office and through binoculars."

Stationary object

The *Adelaide Mail* on January 5 reported this strange sighting: "The 'saucer' was first sighted at 1.30 a.m. today (December 29, 1962) by Mr. Tom Hoey, a farmer, ten miles from Clifton. Mr. Hoey said the object first appeared as the brightest star in the sky, but was closer to the earth than the moon.

"It was very large, very bright, and was fringed on one side by an orange glow, he said.

"'About 3.30 a.m. a smaller, duller light started to move slowly away from the larger one. It changed course several times and finally disappeared below the horizon,' he said. 'The smaller light seemed to be quite close.'

"Mr. Hoey said he had not seen the smaller light return to the original object. A Toowoomba photographer who visited the site for a Brisbane newspaper said there was definitely something there.

"'It looked like a shining disc,' he said.

"By four o'clock this afternoon the object had not moved, but cloud cover prevented observers from gaining a clear view. The R.A.A.F. cannot track the object with radar.

"A spokesman at the Amberley air base (30 miles from Brisbane) said tonight the R.A.A.F. usually trained surveillance radar on objects reported, but the Clifton object was too far away. The radar, designed for airfield approach, had a range of only 42 miles."

NEW ZEALAND

Another photograph

The Auckland *Star* in its February 3 issue carried this interesting story: "A photograph at the D.S.I.R. auroral station Lauder, *confirms* that Mr. C. B. Taylor, who was at Cape Hallett last June, saw a 'mystery object' travelling across the sky.

"A scientist at the station, Dr. M. Gadsen, said tonight that a long-exposure photograph taken on the all-sky camera showed the object's train.

"*It was not a meteor, and there were no reports of a satellite burning out in that area at the time.*

"'*We are puzzled by it,' he said.*"

The Cape Hallet incident was originally reported in the REVIEW in its September-October, 1962, issue. As Lieut. Holden comments in his letter to us, the photograph must have been under detailed scientific study for a long time, from June, 1962, to January, 1963.

Hallucinated cows?

We are indebted to Lieut. A. R. Holden, R.N., RETD., for the following items from New Zealand. On February 16 the Auckland *Star* printed this report: "Farmer Charlie Brew's cows 'turned somersaults' in fright when a mysterious flying object visited his farm near Moe, 80 miles south-east of Melbourne, yesterday. Mr. Brew told reporters his son Trevor and he were milking cows shortly after 7 a.m. when he saw an object descending through the rain to a height of between 75 and 100 feet.

"'I thought it was going to land but it suddenly shot off to the west at two or three times the speed of a jet and disappeared into a cloud,' the farmer said.

"Mr. Brew said the object was about 25 feet wide. It looked like a thick grey disc with a transparent band round its circumference and a number of scoop-like protrusions. His son heard the pulsating, whooshing sound it made as it revolved overhead.

"The cows turned somersaults and the horses reared in panic.

"Mr. Brew added that he had often laughed at people who said they saw such objects—'but this was the real thing.'"

SOUTH AFRICA

Kimberley and Johannesburg

Our correspondent in South Africa, Mr. Phillip J. Human, sends us the following accounts:

Pretoria News, January 19. "A weird bright light was seen over Jacobsdal, about 30 miles south of Kimberley last night. According to a farmer, Mr. J. C. Combrinck, the light was low on the horizon and varied between brilliance and dullness. 'We have no idea what it could be, but we were afraid. We have never seen anything like it before,' he said."

The *Daily Dispatch*, East London, January 25. "Several people telephoned a Johannesburg newspaper last night to report a strange, stationary light in the north-east sky. 'It was in the sky for about half-an-hour after 9 p.m.,' one said. 'It was a brilliant red-brown with a long tail of light and seemed to have a sort of halo around it.'"

Durban sighting

On January 28, 1963, at about 11 p.m., Mrs. S. C. Montgomery, 65, was standing at a window in her home looking at the sky, which was particularly clear, and watching a planet which was burning with a steady reddish light. Her home stands near the edge of a hill, about 2,000 feet above sea level, 15 miles inland from the city of Durban and the Indian Ocean.

She then saw above and to the left, a black object silhouetted against the deep blue of the clear sky. She described it as being about the size and shape of a cigar. At the tail end there was a strong glow with a display of light which she described as being similar to fireworks such as catherine wheels. There was the sensation as if a continuous regular discharge of sparks was leaving the tail from amongst the coloured glow. These showers of light were not quite sparks, but something close to it, and varying in colour. She is most definite that the object was not an aircraft, and is familiar with their appearance at night since they often fly overhead. Nevertheless, she watched carefully to see if it would change course for the local airport, but it headed on a steady course about south-east, straight out to sea until it was lost to view. The object was in sight for a time between 30 seconds and one minute. There was no sound.

Significantly, this sighting recalled to her memory a similar object, identical in every respect, which she saw in the summer in England during 1954, over the village of Amesbury in Wiltshire. At that time she had assumed it was a special aircraft from Boscombe Down, but is now sure it was not.

(Credit to Mr. D. S. H. Montgomery, the son of the witness.)

HAWAII

The *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* in its issue of March 12 carried the following report: "A mystery light seen moving across the sky north and west of Oahu last night might have been a rocket fired from Vandenburg Air Force Base in California.

"The Air Force announced the firing of an Atlas inter-continental ballistic missile at a target. The brief announcement didn't specify the target and a spokesman would not say when it was fired.

"A Hawaii Air National Guard pilot, flying at 40,000 feet, said he thought it was a spacecraft or rocket flying a predetermined course. Military spokesmen here were mum.

"The commanding officer of the Pacific Missile Range facility at Kaneohe had a succinct 'no comment' this morning. Accounts of spectators were reminiscent of old flying saucer sightings.

"The Vandenburg firing was described officially as a routine training launch.

"Air Guard pilot Captain Jon Parish, flying a F-102, said the light was moving west between 7.43 and 7.45. The Pacific Missile Range 'shooting gallery' runs north of the Islands from California to downrange impact areas as far away as Kwajalein. A P.M.R. duty officer said last night 'I don't know' when asked what the light was.

"A Pacific Air Force spokesman at Hickam Air Force Base said 'We don't know what it was.' Parish and Lieutenant George Joy said they were flying south-west when they saw the 'light spot' with a vapour trail. Joy said the object was moving at a very high altitude, at high speed and due west. They could see it for a minute and a half.

"The vapour trail, lighter than that usually made by a jet, disappeared over Kauai and beyond the horizon, Joy said. A U.S. Weather Bureau observer saw a 'yellowish light' like an inverted pear about 60 degrees above the horizon. William Garrett, watching from Waikiki, said it looked red to him. He likened it to an automobile headlight. He said he watched it for up to 20 minutes. (Credit to Miss O. M. Beaton.)

NO LIFE ON VENUS?

(*Continued from page* 14)

Dr. Conway Snyder, of JPL, said Mariner found "solar winds" boiling constantly off the sun to be atomic particles one million degrees Fahrenheit hot and moving at speeds from 200 to 500 miles (320 to 800 kms) per second.

"There are 10 to 20 particles per cubic inch," making them "the predominant feature of interplanetary space," he said.

Other scientists said that Mariner found Venus to be virtually motionless on its axis or at best rotating only very slowly.

The spokesman at the American Embassy added that the temperature at the surface of Venus was a matter of speculation only. We invited Mr. V. A. Firsoff, the noted British authority on Venus, who wrote for us on this subject in the July-August, 1961, issue, to comment and we quote from his letter:

"I am afraid I am unable to offer any definite comment. This is not a scientific report, but a journalistic hand-out, rather sensational in parts and containing obvious errors, e.g. no Earth-based studies have ever 'indicated the clouds are composed of carbon dioxide and nitrogen.'

"That the achievement of the Mariner probe is remarkable and that it has supplied some very interesting data, there can be no reasonable doubt. But so far these data remain unknown. We have only interpretations, which appear to be wildly improbable. Interpretations are based on the assumptions made, and if interpretations are improbable one must look for errors in the assumptions, which again are unknown.

"The report has further puzzling features. Thus, the probe was supposed to distinguish between atmospheric and surface temperatures by means of absorption by water vapour, which stops certain wavelengths of microwave radio emission and transmits others. The transmitted radiation would then relate to the surface. But if no water vapour has been found this method could not work. . . . etc., etc."

Another report

A fortnight later the British Press reported that the balloon-telescope launched from Dallas, Texas, had discovered that Mars was a vast desert and would be capable of supporting only an extraordinary form of life, though it was admitted that much more data would be required before any definite pronouncement could be made. Despite the caution of Dr. Harold Weaver, of the University of California, a number of newspapers jumped to the conclusion that Mars, too, could be written off as a source of life. The journalists had apparently overlooked the fact that the deserts of the Earth can, for that matter, support human life.

Views sought

As a result of these newspaper reports, a representative of the London *Sunday Telegraph* approached the Editor of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW for his views, apparently expecting that the flying saucers would have to be buried at last in view of these allegedly negative findings, and seemed quite surprised to discover that the policy of the REVIEW is to keep an open mind as to where the saucers were coming from. It is certain that they exist and the evidence that has accumulated has been gathered on earth and in its atmosphere and not in outer space. If it can be proved that the UFOs do not emanate from Mars and Venus, then they must be coming from somewhere else. It can be agreed, of course, that if Mars and Venus are uninhabitable, then those contact claimants who mention these planets are not telling the truth, but at the moment there is no certainty about conditions on our neighbours in the solar system.

Before leaving this question, it would be as well to recall that in 1959, Commander D. Ross, of the United States Navy, and Dr. Charles B. Moore, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, discovered three to five times more water vapour on Venus than at comparable altitudes on earth. One writer has suggested that Mariner II either failed to measure this owing to a failure in the equipment or information is being deliberately withheld from the public. In the earlier report on Mariner II's findings which was printed in the March-April issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW a distinction was made between the two sides of Venus. The later report, however, makes no distinction and the findings, as released to the Press, seem to give the impression that great heat would obtain over the whole surface of the planet. The reports which have appeared in the Press have therefore been inadequate and misleading and the REVIEW would endorse the warning given by the spokesman at the United States Embassy in London.

PHOBOS AND DEIMOS: AN INQUIRY

By Wade Wellman

DAY by day, suggestions are mounting that Phobos and Deimos, the baffling companions of Mars, could well be artificial space stations launched into orbit by the races behind the flying saucers. I say "races," for there seems to be very little doubt that more than one planet has the Earth under survey, and surely there is some chance that Phobos and Deimos have a role in the matter. The issue cannot be decided even tentatively at this stage, but I will set up the pros and cons and try to judge which way the scales tip in each instance. First, however, it may be pertinent to quote a text from Patrick Moore, a text that reveals most baldly the schoolboyish dogmatism that popular science writers like to indulge in. Moore, in his otherwise excellent *Guide to the Planets,* counts out this theory with a characteristic dismissal:

"Nature has provided Mars with two perfect ready-made space-stations, and it has even been suggested that the first visitors from Earth may find that Phobos and Deimos are constructed of steel rather than the more orthodox rock! It is certainly an attractive idea, even though we must regretfully class it with Gruithuisen's cerebrations on Venus, H. G. Wells's Moon men, and recent theories about flying saucers." (p. 112.)

Moore does not bother to explain why this theory is preposterous; he simply writes it off in his infinite wisdom and assumes that his word settles the question. Elsewhere, he has ridiculed Keyhoe's *Flying Saucers from Outer Space* as "one of the little-men-from-Mars books,"[1] thereby proving that he had not read the book and, probably, did not intend to read it. So much for Zarathustra's word; there is no greater critic of your professional than your amateur, and Moore, who made observations of Saturn at the age of nine, now seems determined to verify the principle: "Once a child prodigy, always a child prodigy." Let me now turn away from the child prodigy and break Moore's rules by studying the facts, such as they are. Unfortunately there are not many to be had.

Evidence inconclusive

If the satellites are indeed synthetic moons, this is no proof of a *native* race on Mars. Such bases would be launched by a visiting race if the visitors cared to stay awhile, and for that matter we will almost surely orbit space stations around Venus and the Moon when we make our settlements on those worlds. Although life on Mars is not the question before us, I hasten to add that this question still remains open, though very nearly all of the assembled evidence is unfavourable. And, of course, the assembled evidence is inconclusive, for the most powerful telescopes reveal about as much detail on the Martian surface as one sees on the Moon through low-power binoculars. One can therefore understand why our information on the satellites is practically negligible.

In 1877—the same year that Schiaparelli reported his *canali* ("channels") — Professor Asaph Hall, of the U.S. Naval Observatory, made a special search for Martian satellites. Previous investigators had been frustrated, but Hall felt a special determination because, as he later explained, he was tired of reading in books that "Mars has no moons." Jonathan Swift, apparently stabbing in the dark, had described them with remarkable accuracy in *Gulliver's Travels,* and Voltaire, perhaps taking the idea from Swift, referred to them in his *Micromegas.* Fiction was transmuted into fact when Hall, after painstaking efforts, finally recorded the two known moons (there may be others, still undiscovered) in the close approach of August, 1877. Mars at this time was at its least possible distance, about 35 million miles, and Hall, with some difficulty, traced the moonlets, which he afterwards named Phobos (Fear) and Deimos (Panic), after the classical attendants of the war god. It has been argued that these satellites would probably have been discovered earlier had they not been space platforms launched into orbit at about this time, but this seems quite groundless. A very special effort was required to find such minute satellites, and, prior to Hall, no one had had the two things necessary—patience and a sufficiently strong instrument.

Alternatives

Before going further, we might do well to consider alternatives. If the tiny satellites are not space platforms, what else could they be? I would lay a wager that they must be either this or a pair of captured asteroids, and the following paragraphs will try to assess the evidence for each theory in turn. It is almost impossible to believe that they came into existence in the normal fashion, condensing out of the

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[1] MOORE: *Guide To Mars* (p. 68). In this same book Moore describes the platform theory as "about as likely as the age-old theory that the Moon is made of green cheese" (p. 98). His attacks on this theory, and on UFOs generally, have a persistence that sometimes becomes compulsive.

gaseous envelope that surrounds a protoplanet. Phobos at the most is twelve miles in diameter, Deimos about six, and if it isn't impossible by the laws of physics, such a tiny condensation as this is surely improbable. The small size of the moons, as compared with Mars (which measures 4,200 miles in diameter), has something unnatural about it.

The size alone makes it almost certain that these are either stations in space or captive asteroids. Willy Ley, one of the best of the German writers on space travel, has argued that even if these are very small for satellites they are gigantic when considered as artificial platforms. This is correct, but the disproportion is certainly far greater in the first case than in the second. A race with highly advanced technology and ambitious purposes might have every use for a pair of mammoth stations. The fact that Phobos is almost precisely double the size of Deimos faintly suggests a rationality at work. A size ratio of this sort would be a startling coincidence, I think, if we are dealing with a pair of asteroids that strayed into Mar's gravitational field. The consideration of size, then, points mildly in favour of artificial platforms.

The other areas

Let us now consider the remaining areas one by one.

Physical Characteristics: This field virtually draws a blank. As small and remote as they are, the surfaces of Phobos and Deimos are locked in absolute mystery. One observer, E. M. Antoniadi, reported in 1930 that Phobos is usually white and Deimos of a bluish tinge, but nothing emerges from this. Even their shape is undetermined; they might be jagged and irregular in form, which is precisely the case with most asteroids. On the other hand, we would not expect space stations to be spherical, and on this point the scales balance evenly.

Distances from Primary: Phobos travels in its orbit about 3,700 miles above the Martian surface, Deimos at 12,500 miles. This proximity is quite without precedent in our Solar System. At this distance (or nearness) they would be convenient space bases, and even if they are not platforms our flights to Mars will use them as such. But, since captive asteroids could easily enough slip into paths at these altitudes, we must once again conclude that the scales balance. So far, the space-station theory leads—by a whisker.

Speed: Phobos revolves with incredible velocity, completing an orbit in seven hours 40 minutes, circling the planet three times in one rotation of Mars. To an observer on the planet it would rise in the west and set in the east, a phenomenon unique in the Solar System. Deimos requires 30 hours 17 minutes to revolve at its greater distance. But this is no more than an illustration of the second law of Kepler, which holds, by extension, that the nearer the satellite comes to its primary, the faster it moves.

Orbits: Each moonlet keeps the same hemisphere turned towards Mars; this is the general rule of satellites, and constitutes the only respect in which the Martian moons are typical. The orbits themselves, however, seem to argue against space stations. Both paths are very nearly circular (which does not cut either way), but the point to notice is that they lie in almost the same plane, very near the equator. One would not expect two space bases to occupy roughly the same plane; they would be far more useful as loading and launching platforms if they moved in strongly divergent orbits. Indeed, there is hardly any point in having two stations if they both travel in the same zone; one could almost do the work of two in such a case.

Nevertheless, this is the reasoning of earthmen. There is no need to assume that the visiting races are the same as we are in their thinking; they might have different emotions and a different mode of reasoning. This theory of an alien psychology is supported by the fact that UFOs frequently move upward with an oscillating motion, and sometimes in a spiral. Behaviour of this sort is not consistent with human psychology, and the same could apply to their use of base platforms. The objection falls flat.

Experts differ

Some experts have opposed the asteroid theory on the grounds that it would be too much of a coincidence for two captive asteroids to travel in almost the same plane. But I feel that the asteroid theory also fits in with these orbits, perhaps meeting the objections better than its alternative. Paths can change if the bodies are gravitationally affected, and it could be that the gravity of Mars slowly brought a pair of divergent orbits close together. Of course this assumes that the capture took place aeons ago, long before Asaph Hall's discovery, but this poses no difficulty. So it looks as if the orbits are equally well suited to space bases or to asteroids taken over by Mars.

At this time I would not care to be dogmatic about either theory, nor would I completely discount the possibility that these extraordinary moonlets were formed in the usual way. But I think it can safely be said that the platform theory has at least a 50 per cent. chance, and perhaps just a little bit more than that. Certainly the United States is not oblivious to this possibility. For even now the National Aeronautics and Space Administration is preparing special probes to determine this very question. Perhaps they have not read the books of Patrick Moore.

THE MOON AND THE PLANETS *by C. M. Pither*

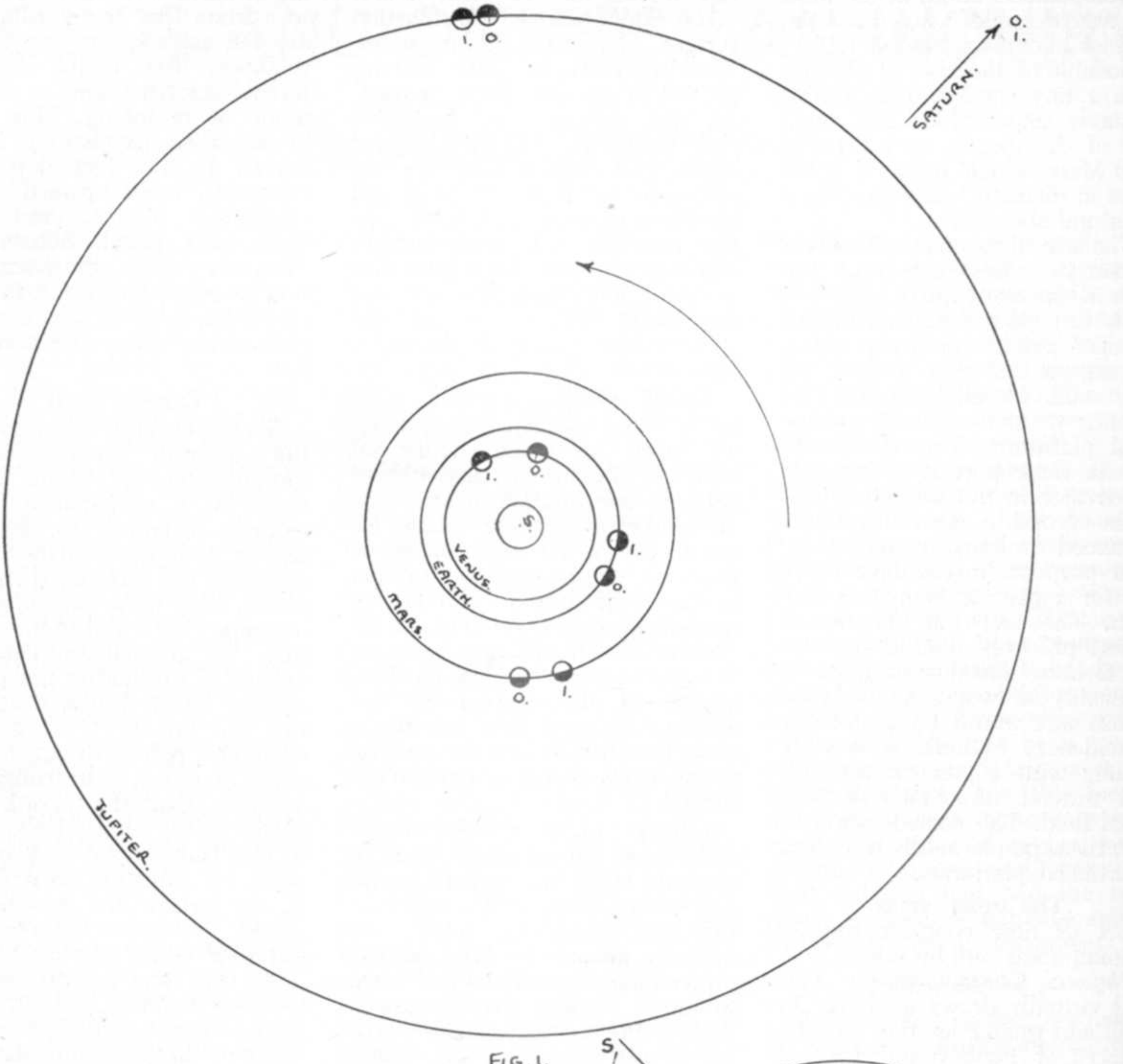


FIG. 1.

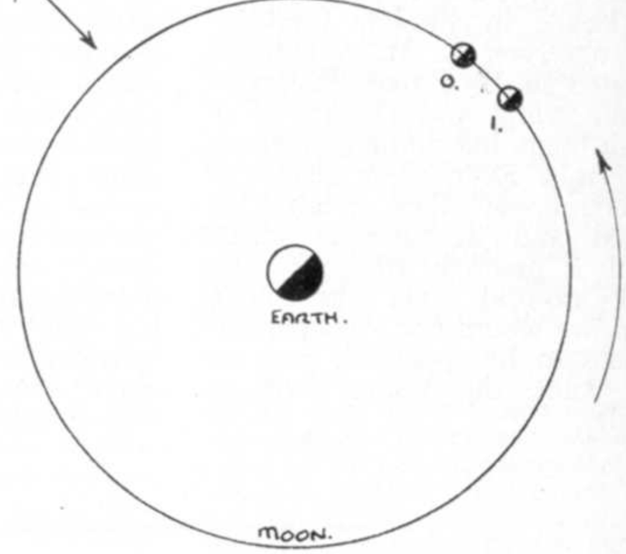


FIG. 2.

Figs. 1 and 2. O = Moon and Planets during May.
1 = Moon and Planets during June.

N.B.: These charts, and others that will be following, are made out for approximately the middle of each month.

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

Spy Satellites

Sir,—On March 15 the London *Evening Standard* carried a front-page story, with large headlines, about U.S. and Russian spy satellites. The writer told of ". . . a mystery about six more, status unknown," which are not claimed or admitted by either side. As no real attempt was made to explain the unknown objects, I scrawled a hurried letter to the editor, suggesting a possible answer.

The *Evening Standard,* which publishes very few readers' letters, has treated the subject of UFOs somewhat flippantly in recent weeks, so I was not surprised to receive a courteous acknowledgment and explanation about shortage of space, etc., etc.

As I feel that my idea may be of interest to your readers, I append the gist of my letter (unfortunately I did not keep a copy).

"The satellites, status unknown, could be secret devices launched by either side, carrying jamming and other equipment, to be activated when close to the offending 'spy' satellites. In this day and age such devices would not be beyond the bounds of possibility.

"Taking the idea a step further, and encouraged (!) by recent pronouncements from Prof. Lovell that there could be trillions of life-bearing planets in the Universe, I feel that it is not unreasonable to suggest that the unknown six could have been placed there by some extra-terrestrial agency.

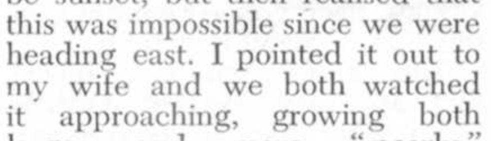
"Furthermore, is it unreasonable to assume that such an agency might wish to restrain man's lethal activities beyond the atmosphere? Our scientists have warned us repeatedly about the dangers of nuclear blasts in space. The Americans persisted, and their space H-bomb caused, and is causing no end of trouble."

Sir Bernard Lovell, it seems, has proved that leopards *can* change their spots! — C. A. Bowen, 28 Blackmore Crescent, Woking, Surrey.

(Our reader is referred to the leader in this issue as well as to the article on page 20.—Editor.)

Cigar-Shaped Object

Sir,—Driving with my wife on Sunday, March 10, at approximately 6.35 p.m. in an easterly direction three miles the London side of Didcot, I saw a bright red circular light through a break in the clouds. At first I took it to be sunset, but then realised that this was impossible since we were heading east. I pointed it out to my wife and we both watched it approaching, growing both larger and more "pearly" coloured. It then flattened out into a cigar shape and appeared to have two circular red objects, thus:



It then seemed to move slightly to our left and then receded into a circular shape once again and disappeared. In all, we, including my five-year-old daughter, watched it for two or three minutes.

Seeing it in a break in the clouds makes it extremely difficult to estimate either size or distance. At a guess I should say its height was 8,000 feet and 15 to 20 miles away. While circular it was three-quarters the size of the moon and elongated three times the diameter.

I should mention that we have always been sceptical as to the existence of flying saucers and such like and must keep an open mind on whether what we saw was indeed from some other planet or some phenomenal trick of light from the moon. It was most definitely not an airplane or similar machine. Indeed, it appeared to be not so much an object as a very luminous mass of light.

We are most interested to know whether you have received any other reports from that neighbourhood for that evening. — N. Lonsdale, 41 Chelsea Square, London, S.W.3.

(No similar reports have been received from the Didcot area on or about the date mentioned. Our reader is, however, referred to the sighting and photograph on page 17 in this issue.—Editor.)

Meeting Dr. Menzel

Sir,—I notice in the January-February issue of the REVIEW that Dr. Menzel is in the news again. I thought you might be interested to know that when he visited Johannesburg a few months ago he came to see me and we had a long chat about flying saucers. Now, I am one of the contactees, but that didn't seem to put him off. He was most charming and considerate but asked me many searching questions.

We first met in the bookshop of this main branch of the Central News Agency here where I work. After talking most of the afternoon, I sold him a copy of your book, *Flying Saucers and Commonsense,* which he went off with to read at his hotel. Next day he was back to see me again to ask me many more questions and to examine my photographs of flying saucers. I described the flying saucer to him in detail and how it landed, etc., and the two men who took me away with

them. The professor was intensely interested and showed it clearly by the eagerness of his questions. Later, he gave a lecture at the University which I attended. He was pleased to see me and came and chatted with me for a while. The lecture hall was packed, and I was sitting with friends whom I introduced to Dr. Menzel. And he was quite charming, but at the end he said to me quietly: "Forget about flying saucers, they don't exist. What you saw and experienced was all hallucination."—Elizabeth Klarer, 15 Argyll House, Princess Place, Parktown, Johannesburg, South Africa.

A regular flight

Sir,—I thought perhaps you would be interested in (1) a sighting which was observed by my mother on February 21, 1963; (2) sightings that occurred near Bath on March 2, 1963.

The object observed by my mother (Mrs. D. M. Cadel, 17 Highland Avenue, Highcliffe, Hants.) is unfortunately uncollaborated by the absence of other witnesses, but this is how it was described to me, with one interesting feature.

"On February 21 at about 9.45 p.m. I was in my dining-room (this faces south-east — towards the Isle of Wight) when I was preparing to draw the curtains when my attention was drawn to an emerald green object hanging in the sky with a golden? aura, it appeared to be oval tending to elongation, this may have been due to its change in position. I observed this for about one hour after the first fear had gone (I suppose this is a result of my interest in UFOs) and during this time it appeared to be on end and during this time about a dozen smaller objects shot out from both sides of the object and rapidly vanished. I would not have seen them but for the brilliance of the bigger object. The main object appeared to be stationary during the whole time of observation, about one hour, when I finally lost interest and went to bed." Further pointers gleaned from my mother was that once she opened the window in an attempt to listen for any sound, but was unable to discern any. Two of the smaller objects appeared to return. The sighting was seen in a clear sky and that the smaller objects mostly disappeared over the Channel. She also looked the following night in the same direction but no reoccurence was observed. The unusual feature is that the presumed mother-ship released her discs from a vertical position.

I know from my previous researches that there is quite a regular flight path along the South Coast, but that night it appears to have gone one better. I should be grateful if any other readers of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW have noticed anything of this nature about that time.

The second item is a report that appeared in the *Western Daily News* in its March 5 issue:

(i) The mystery whirling object which frightened three young girls at Timsbury, near Bath, last Friday has been seen again.

This time, says Mr. P. Heal, of Stockhill, Chilcompton, it hovered in the sky for about a minute before moving off.

"I was not a firm believer in flying objects until last Saturday night, when I saw what at first appeared to be two very bright stars," says Mr. Heal. "The object started to move. As it passed overhead I saw two very bright lights at the front and a monster red light at the back, flashing like a great ball of fire. My father said it was a plane, but there was no engine sound."

Mr. Heal says the object went across the sky, increased its speed, but then turned back. Suddenly it stopped and hovered for about a minute. Then it made a funny whirring sound for five seconds before moving off and disappearing.

The other cutting reports:

That whirling Thing has been seen again. First came two weekend reports from near Bath. Now a Mr. Charles Rodber has seen a mystery object over Yeovil. "I could not make out any shape but it was definitely not an aeroplane. It made a sound like a sewing machine," he said yesterday. Mr. Rodber, a guard at Yeovil's Pen Mill station, who lives in Eastville, Yeovil, said he saw two brilliant white lights about 2,000 ft. up in the sky coming over Yeovil from the Sherbourne direction. "I called out to my children and we watched the lights go over the town. They seemed to dip and then came back and disappeared in the direction of Sherborne," he said. "I told one or two people but they thought I had gone mad or something."—D. Cadel, 24 Julyan Avenue, Wallisdown, Poole, Dorset.

UNIVERSAL LIFE

Universal life upon universal matter is an idea to which the mind instinctively clings. Kingdoms without kings and subjects—continents without cities—cities without citizens—houses without families—ships without crews, and railway trains without passengers, are contingencies as probable as solar systems without planets, or planets without inhabitants.

Sir David Brewster
More Worlds Than One 1854

FLYING SAUCERS AND THE BRASS CURTAIN

By Desmond Edwards

ON June 19, 1956, the *Washington Evening Star* said in a front-page headline: "Mystery Object Sighted Over Nation's Capital." The story dealt with the appearance over Washington of another unidentified flying object, sighted by Ground Observer Corps watchers as it approached the National Airport, where it hovered for a few minutes, glowing brightly, then sped away and vanished.

Officially it became another in the long series of unidentified flying objects which have been recorded over the nation's capital in recent years. Singly and in swarms they come, circling, swerving, hovering by turns. When jets are sent up to pursue them, they flip up on edge and race away, leaving the jets far behind.

The U.S. Air Force, which is entrusted with defending the nation against any and all aerial intruders, has since 1947 been conducting an extensive and expensive investigation of these phenomena popularly known as "flying saucers." The Air Force has followed a most extraordinary policy in its public statements on the matter, a policy of contradiction, confusion and perhaps deception.

"Mere hallucinations"

While the U.S. Air Force was solemnly assuring the public that those who reported these unidentified flying objects were sadly mistaken, the same Air Force was also spending huge sums of money trying to capture one of the very objects whose existence it denied. While the Air Force persistently brushed such reports aside as "mere hallucinations"—it was also sending up its fastest jet fighter planes to chase the "hallucinations"!

Each year, as the Air Force announced that it was closing its latest project of investigating these unidentified aerial objects, it neglected to add that it was opening another such project immediately, under a different name. Perhaps this peculiar official policy was well founded. Perhaps there is developing a situation which warrants keeping the facts from the public as long as possible.

Let us examine the records. Are the flying saucers real?

The answer to that question is a well-kept secret, if we expect an answer in so many words. But if we look about us we can arrive at a conclusion without being told. Fifteen major nations, including our own and Russia, have official government projects devoted to the study of the so-called flying saucers. Only France, of all the major countries, has no government agency in this field. And only in France are reports of sightings printed in their entirety as they occur.

The German saucer-study project was headed by Dr. Hermann Oberth, famed rocket expert and long-time exponent of space travel. Dr. Oberth said, in June, 1955, that the studies of his group had convinced him that the flying saucers did not originate on this earth, but evidently came from somewhere out in space. (A few weeks later Dr. Oberth was taken to the U.S.A. and placed on the staff at Redstone Arsenal in Alabama, effectively terminating his public statements on the subject of unidentified flying objects.)

The British Government followed a policy of free and public discussion on its findings in this field until the late summer of 1954, when it suddenly reversed itself and ordered all military and Government personnel to make no further public statements dealing with unidentified flying objects.

On May 15, 1954, U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff General Nathan Twining was speaking in Amarillo, Texas. He said to his audience: "The best brains in the Air Force are trying to solve this riddle [of flying saucers]. If they come from Mars, they are so far ahead of us we have nothing to be afraid of."

The United States Government evidently thinks the flying saucers are real, for the Pentagon issued two specific orders dealing with them. The first is known as JANAP 146-B CIRVIS. The word CIRVIS is formed from the initials of the title of the order—"Communicating Instructions for Reporting Vital Intelligence Sightings from Aircraft." It was issued by the Joint Chiefs of Staff in September, 1951. It covered all military and civilian personnel under the jurisdiction of the Government, ordering them to report immedi-

ately any sightings of "unidentified flying objects."

That was a move that was made in 1951, before the mantle of secrecy had been fully lowered. In August of 1954, after Colonel Milani's demand for the publication of the facts and after the Wilmington reports (newspaper reports carrying the story "100 Mystery Objects Sighted Here"), the second order was issued. Known as Air Force Regulation 200-2, this came from the Secretary of the Air Force. It stated flatly that it was concerned with unidentified flying objects (flying saucers)—"First as a possible threat to the security of the United States and its forces and, secondly, to determine technical aspects involved." In paragraph 9 of this order AFR 200-2, the Secretary of the Air Force gave specific instructions that reports of unidentified flying objects are not released. "Only reports . . . where the object has been definitely identified as a familiar object."

The effect of these two official orders, JANAP 146-B and AFR 200-2, was to require immediate reporting of all sightings of strange objects in the air, and once those reports had been made, the persons involved were expressly forbidden to make any public statements.

What kind of reports had the public been getting? It received one from the Air Force press desk at the Pentagon on June 10, 1954, when the Air Force announced that flying saucers were on the wane because it had received only eighty-seven sighting reports in the first five months of the year. The public got another jolt on that same night, when Colonel John O'Mara, Deputy Commander of Intelligence at Air Technical Intelligence Centre, Dayton, Ohio, told newsmen that "the Air Force is now receiving more than seven hundred sighting reports per week—the highest rate in the history of the entire investigation."

While the Air Force was getting its wire crossed in this fashion, hundreds of local newspapers were front-paging sighting reports by reputable citizens. On May 17, 1954, the *Dallas Times-Herald* said: "Four Jet Pilots Report Race With Saucers Over Dallas." The paper quoted veteran Marine Reserve pilot Major Charles Scarborough, who was in command of the flight of four SF-97 jets. He told how he and his three companions suddenly found themselves in the midst of a flight of sixteen silvery, disc-shaped objects which played tag around the jets for several minutes, while the jets tried vainly to match the manœuvres of their eerie playmates. The Joliet (Illinois) *News Herald* said on the same day: "Saucer Pays a Visit"—and it told how local citizens had watched a single silvery disc perform over the city. From Alaska, from Uganda, Africa, from every state in the Union and from countries of South America, the reports appeared. Whatever they were, they were being watched in all parts of the world.

But what were they? Dr. Herman Oberth, who identified them as visitors from space, was, by mid-1954, an employee of the United States Government, subject to strict security regulations (including AFR 200-2), and could make no public statements.

Lord Dowding's view

British Air Marshal Lord Dowding, a man with a distinguished military record and one who knew what was in the files of the British Royal Air Force, said, in 1954, "The flying saucers are unquestionably interplanetary craft and should be treated as such."

Lord Dowding was not alone in his views that the saucers should be treated with extreme caution. In July of 1952, when scores of these strange objects sailed around over Washington, D.C., the jittery Air Force issued an order to its pursuit pilots: "Shoot them down!" The order was issued shortly after noon on July 26, 1952, and it got nationwide coverage on the news wires as a matter of course. Prominent scientists, including the late Dr. Albert Einstein, are reported to have called the White House to urge that the order be withdrawn in the interests of common sense. Their reasoning was logic itself: any intelligence able to cross space would be able to defend itself after it reached its goal, certainly against such comparatively primitive weapons as rockets and guns.

The "shoot-'em-down" order was rescinded by the White House shortly before five o'clock in the afternoon. That night, while Washington observers watched the objects on radar and with the naked eye, jets raced back and forth in pursuit. The objects sped away; the jets returned without a shot being fired. Even after this remarkable experience in Washington, the Air Force doggedly insisted that the things were nothing more than "hallucinations."

In December, 1953, Colonel D. M. Blakeslee was flying an F-84 Thunderjet over northern Japan, when he spied before him in the gathering gloom a cluster of glowing objects. As he tried to close in on them with his jet operating at full throttle, Colonel Blakeslee reported that he could see the glowing objects flying in spiral formation around a common centre at the same time that they easily outdistanced him. According to the Air Force "explanation," Colonel Blakeslee was

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Books of interest to students of flying saucers

FLYING SAUCERS AND THE STRAIGHT LINE MYSTERY

by Aimé Michel
with an introduction by General L. M. Chassin

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THE DAWN OF MAGIC

by Louis Pauwels and Jacques Bergier

30*s*

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with an introduction by Tiffany Thayer

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suffering from an hallucination, but it is worth noting that he was not grounded for a single minute.

Lieutenant David Brigham, flying a P-51, was approaching his base in northern Japan on the night of March 29, 1952—sky clear, visibility excellent—when a shiny, disc-shaped thing came streaking at him, came to a sudden stop in mid-air, then played around over his wings, cockpit and tail planes before it zoomed away from him. Another pilot, coming in behind him, also saw and verified the report. If the Air Force believed its own " explanation," both these fliers were in a bad way mentally. Neither man was grounded, of course. The experience of Lt. Brigham and Colonel Blakeslee are typical of those reported by hundreds of pilots, both military and commercial. It is worthy of note that not a single pilot was ever grounded for having what the Air Force claims " hallucinations " of this sort!

Is there a veil of censorship which has kept the public from being fully informed on these strange objects? The following story appears to confirm that there is.

At ten minutes past midnight, October 19, 1953, a National Airlines DC-6, just out of Philadelphia en route for Washington, was at 8,000 ft. over the Conowingo Dam. The pilot had just reported his position and estimated arrival time. He hung up the microphone and settled back for a routine milk run to the National Airport. Thirty seconds later he found himself confronted with a possible mid-air collision. A shiny, disc-shaped object slid out of a thin layer of clouds and came rushing at him. The co-pilot flipped on the wing lights as a warning. In return the object sent a blinding beam of white light into the cockpit of the airliner. The pilot, with only a few seconds left, threw the big DC-6 into a dive at full power. The object that had almost rammed them shot past overhead and vanished. The story of this unidentified flying object that apparently tried to ram a commercial airliner loaded with passengers appeared in the *Washington Post* next morning. It ran in only one edition. Then it was taken out, and it did not appear in any other paper, nor did it appear on any news wire—although such an incident was front-page news. It is obvious from this that censorship had taken place.

It is evident from records that these mysterious objects are not " hallucinations " even in the minds of those who officially profess to dismiss them as such. It is equally clear that in many nations, including our own, there is a continuous programme of investigation aimed at acquiring every bit of information that has a bearing on these objects. The records also show that the flying saucers which are discredited by the Air Force are identical to the unidentified flying objects with which some of the largest branches of our military are deeply engrossed. The things have been observed all over the world. They have been reported by credible witnesses in every part of the globe. They have been photographed. They have been watched through astronomers' telescopes and tracked on radar screens. They have been (and still are) chased by jet pursuit planes when such pursuit is practicable.

Where do these things originate? What do they want? Do they (as Dr. Oberth and others suspect) power themselves by distortion of the gravitational field? Is there any significance in the fact that the number of sightings increases greatly in the years when Earth and Mars are in their closest approach? If these things do come from another planet, are they using the moon for a base from which to survey Earth and its inhabitants? Does this explain the strange lights and changes which astronomers have reported on the moon in recent years?

When and if the answers to those questions filter through the curtain of official secrecy, the world will have the answer to the riddle of the flying saucers. In the meantime, the depth of the enigma is accentuated by the remarkable statement of General Douglas MacArthur, who said in an interview on December 7, 1955: "The nations of the world will be forced to unite . . . for the next war will be an interplanetary war."

Obituary

WILBERT B. SMITH

Our readers will learn with the greatest reget of the death, on December 27, 1962, of Wilbert B. Smith in the Sacred Heart Hospital in Hull, Quebec, Canada.

He was internationally known for his work in radio communications with the Canadian Government Department of Transport. To the readers of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW he will be best known as the head of " Project Magnet," which he organised and directed for about four years. " Project Magnet," as may be imagined, met with some hostility in the Press and in the end was officially closed, but he continued with his personal investigations until almost the time of his death. He lectured and contributed articles on UFOs to a number of magazines including the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.

THE DAWN OF MAGIC

STUDENTS of the flying saucer mystery will be heartened by the publication of this book written by Louis Pauwels and Jacques Bergier (Anthony Gibbs and Phillips, 30s.). Although UFOs are mentioned, it is not a book on flying saucers and its range is much wider—indeed, it is immense. The authors have noticed that while social revolutions are widely commended and new thought is generally admired, the scientific rebel is as unpopular as ever. *The Dawn of Magic* (not a particularly happy title) is revolutionary in its approach and looks backwards as well as forwards, suggesting that as much is to be discovered from the neglected past as there is from the projections into the future.

The book contains an excellent chapter on Charles Fort, in which the father of the flying saucers (and of many other damned phenomena) is paid the tribute he deserves. Among the most fascinating parts of the book are the references to the Nazi leaders and their involvement in bizarre and disturbing researches which were carried out during the course of the last war. This section of the book should cause a sensation and might lift it into the best-seller class, where it could perform an excellent service in freeing men's minds from the prison of scientific orthodoxy.

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